



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

ATTENTION!!

ATTENTION!!

ATTENTION!!

FBIS will phase out publication of most of its paper reports, including ALL Daily Reports and most FBIS Reports, by 31 December 1996.

See inside for information on how to access FBIS products and services electronically.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

FBIS-NES-96-022
Thursday
1 February 1996

January 1996

Dear Customer:

Responding to our many customers' requests, NTIS will be offering FBIS publications electronically. Due to resource limitations, hardcopy production of FBIS publications will be phased out during 1996. We will notify our customers well in advance of the expiration date for each of our publications. Please see below regarding electronic access to products.

Our goal is to cease publication of all reports by 31 December 1996, except for S&T PERSPECTIVES, S&T CENTRAL EURASIA, S&T CHINA, S&T KOREA, S&T EUROPE, and S&T JAPAN. The S&T reports will continue to be published as hardcopy until the graphics they contain can be disseminated on-line.

FBIS products are offered electronically through the National Technical Information Service's (NTIS) "World News Connection" (WNC). This is a new on-line subscription service accessible through the World Wide Web. The Web address is <http://wnc.fedworld.gov>. Please see next page for a subscription form or call NTIS Fax Direct at 703-487-4140 and enter product code 8645 to receive more information.



World News Connection™

A Foreign News Alert Service
from
the U.S. Government

World News Connection - WNC1.....	\$ 21
7 Day - Introductory Offer	
Unlimited interactive searching	
[no profiles]	
Order number SUB-9856BDQ	
World News Connection - WNC2.....	\$ 50
Monthly	
Unlimited interactive searching	
[no profiles]	
Order number PB95-985700BDQ	
World News Connection - WNC3.....	\$ 75
Monthly	
Unlimited interactive searching	
[1 profile]	
Order number PB95-985800BDQ	
World News Connection - WNC4.....	\$100
Monthly	
Unlimited interactive searching	
[up to 5 profiles]	
Order number PB95-985900BDQ	
(Prices are subject to change)	

<u>User Name</u> (Please Print or Type)	<u>Internet E-mail Address</u> (Required)	<u>Order Number</u>	<u>Price</u>
1) _____	_____	_____	_____
2) _____	_____	_____	_____

(Continue on a blank sheet if more space is required)

Deposit Account Number (for NTIS account customers only): _____

Customer Master Number (if known): _____ Date: _____

Contact Name: _____ Organization: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Province/Territory: _____ Country: _____

Foreign Postal Code: _____

Internet E-mail Address (Organization contact person): _____

Telephone Number: () _____ Fax Number: () _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Credit Card Expiration Date: _____

Card Type (Visa, Master Card, or American Express): _____

Cardholder's Name (as printed on the credit card): _____

Cardholder's Signature (required to validate all orders): _____

(Please fax this form back to NTIS at 703-321-8547. Fax service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
To verify receipt of your fax, call (703) 487-4679 between 7:00am - 5:00pm, Monday - Friday, Eastern Time.)

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-022

CONTENTS

1 February 1996

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Meets Turkish Envoy on Water Dispute [<i>MENA</i>]	1
--	---

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Says PNC To Convene 12 Apr in Gaza [<i>Jerusalem TV</i>]	1
PLO Executive Committee To Meet To Discuss Convening Council [<i>Jericho VOP</i>]	1
Qaddumi Denies PLO's Agreement To Amend Charter [<i>AL-NAHAR 26 Jan</i>]	1
Palestinian Hamas Spokesman Cited on Darwish Contacts With Israelis [<i>London AL-SHARQ</i> <i>AL-AWSAT 31 Jan</i>]	1
Fatah Official Opposes Amending Palestinian Covenant [<i>Jerusalem Radio</i>]	2
Northern Gaza Election Rerun Concluded; Results Due 1 Feb [<i>Jericho VOP</i>]	2
Palestinian Front Said To Endorse Return of All PNC Members [<i>AL-AYYAM 30 Jan</i>]	2
DFLP To Participate in Palestinian Municipal Elections [<i>AL-NAHAR 30 Jan</i>]	3
Hamas' Ghawshah on Palestinian Municipal Elections, PNC Meeting [<i>AL-NAHAR 30 Jan</i>] ...	3
Palestinian Hamas Role in Elections Analyzed [<i>THE JERUSALEM TIMES 26 Jan</i>]	4
Palestinian Authority's 'Abd-Rabbuh on Banned Exhibition, Negotiations [<i>Jericho VOP</i>]	4
Palestinian Security Forces Conducting Manhunt for Infiltrators [<i>HA'ARETZ 31 Jan</i>]	6
Palestinian DFLP Member Sees Opposition Role in Permanent Accord Talks [<i>Jerusalem Radio</i>]	6
Yasir 'Arafat Returns From Sweden [<i>Jericho VOP</i>]	6

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli Delegates Comment on Conclusion of Wye Round [<i>Jerusalem Radio</i>]	7
---	---

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Rescheduled Algerian Farmers' Debts Reach 5 Billion Dinars in '95 [<i>Algiers TV</i>]	8
Algerian Council Examines Draft Law To Protect National Economy [<i>Algiers Radio</i>]	8
Further on Algerian Security Forces Killing of 'Criminal Groups' [<i>Algiers TV</i>]	8
Algerian HAMAS Head Rules Out Dialogue With 'Armed Fundamentalists' [<i>Paris</i> <i>International</i>]	8
Algerian HAMAS Leader Calls For Dialogue With 'Criminal Groups' [<i>Algiers Radio</i>]	8
Algerian FIS Said Ready To Negotiate With Authorities [<i>Algiers Radio</i>]	9
Truck Explosion, Bomb Kill 14, Injure Over 30 in Algeria [<i>Paris International</i>]	9

Egypt

Cairo Radio Reports Anti-Sudan UN Resolution, Envoy's Reaction	9
Egypt's Musa Receives Message From Eritrean Counterpart [<i>MENA</i>]	9
Egyptian State Security Foils 'Terrorist Scheme'; 45 Suspects Arrested [<i>Cairo Radio</i>]	10
'Terrorists' Reportedly Targeted Vital Egyptian Installations, Officials [<i>MENA</i>]	10
Mashhur Interviewed on Muslim Brotherhood's Future, al-Wasat Role [<i>London AL-MAJALLAH 28</i> <i>Jan-3 Feb</i>]	11

Egypt's al-Wasat Party Leader Interviewed, Discusses MB Ties [London AL-MAJALLAH 28 Jan-3 Feb]	11
Egyptian Government Announces Measures Adopted for Agricultural Production [Cairo Radio]	13
Libya	
Libyan Editor Denies 'Billion Dollar' Donation to Farrakhan [JANA]	13
Sudan	
UNSC Formally Accuses Sudan of Supporting 'Terrorism' [AFP]	14
Sudanese Press: Relations With Egypt Reach All-Time Low [AFP]	15
Clashes Between Police, Citizens Reported North of Khartoum [Cairo Radio]	15
Sudanese Foreign Minister on Ethiopia, Gulf Relations [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 31 Jan]	15
ARABIAN PENINSULA	
Bahrain	
Bahraini Source Tells KUNA Iranian Diplomat To Be Expelled [KUNA]	19
Bahraini Papers Assail 'Tendentious' Campaigns Against Country [WAKH]	19
Kuwait	
Kuwaiti Leadership Averts 'Major Crisis With Saudi Arabia' [ARAB TIMES 24 Jan]	20
Kuwaiti Paper Calls CDLR 'Political,' Not Islamic [AL-QABAS 9 Jan]	20
Saudi Arabia	
King Fahd Receives Crown Prince 'Abdallah [SPA]	21
IRAQ	
Saddam Reportedly Closes 4 Air Bases in Karkuk [Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]	22
Iraqi Ports Reportedly Ready To Receive 'Giant' Merchant Ships [Baghdad TV]	22
Scientist Comments on Iraq's, Iran's Nuclear Programs [London AL-MAJALLAH 3 Feb]	22
BAGHDAD OBSERVER To Be Published Weekly [AL-DUSTUR 31 Jan]	25
Iraqi Army, Security Forces Clash With People in South [Tehran TV]	25
PUK's Talabani on Peace, Economy in Kurdistan [Voice of the People of Kurdistan]	25
Correction to Swiss Firm Handled Nuclear Equipment	25
ISRAEL	
Peres Said Awaiting Syrian, U.S. Reply Before Deciding on Elections [Jerusalem Radio]	26
Peres Comments on Progress of Syria Talks, Elections [Jerusalem TV]	26
Peres Views Elections, Peace Negotiations [London BBC TV]	27
Peres Aide, Labor's Zvili: Peres Undecided on Election Date [Jerusalem Radio]	28
Israeli Parties To Hold Informal Contacts on Possible Election Date [Jerusalem Radio]	28
Ethiopian Immigrant Voting Trends, Leadership in Israel Profiled [DAVAR RISHON 31 Jan]	28
Minister Reiterates Denial of Talks on Future of Jerusalem [THE JERUSALEM POST 1 Feb]	29
Palestinian Spy for Iran Captured by Shin Bet, Identified [Jerusalem Radio]	30
Iranian Spy in Israel Expelled to Jordan [Jerusalem Radio]	30
Israeli Authorities Stop Entry of Palestinian Policemen From Libya Into PA [Jerusalem Radio]	30
Israel's Memad, NRP Leaders in Contact on Possible 'Front' [HA'ARETZ 31 Jan]	30
JORDAN	
Speculation Continues About Jordanian Cabinet Reshuffle [JORDAN TIMES 1 Feb]	32

Jordan Signs Oil, Grain, Deals With Iraq, Syria [AKHBAR AL-USBU' 1 Feb]	33
Jordan's Prince Hasan Leaves for Turkey for Water Talks [Amman Radio]	33
Jordan's Prince Hasan Comments on Water Talks in Turkey [Amman TV]	33
Jordanian Authorities Silent on Husayn Kamil Hospitalization [London AL-HAYAH 1 Feb]	34
Jordanian Authorities Prevent Hamas' Hamami From Entering [AL-BILAD 30 Jan]	34

LEBANON

Lebanon's al-Hariri on Domestic Situation, Syria [Beirut Radio]	35
Hizballah Berates U.S. Envoy to Lebanon for 'Terrorist' Remarks [AFP]	35
Clashes 'Raging' Between 'Resistance,' Israeli, SLA Troops in Lebanon [VOL]	35
Israeli Helicopters Strafe Areas in South Lebanon [Beirut Radio]	35
Islamic Resistance Attacks SLA Position in Lebanon [Beirut Radio]	36

SYRIA

Syria's Vice President Says Peres 'Rosy' Statements Not Enough [WAKH]	37
Damascus Radio Urges U.S. To Push Israel To Advance Peace	37
Syrian Sources Cited on Syria-Lebanon Council Session [London AL-HAYAH 31 Jan]	38

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

UN Envoy Mestiri Holds Talks With Mas'ud in Kabul [Tehran International]	39
Afghan Opposition Leader Hekmatyar States Conditions for Talks [Message of Freedom]	39
Demonstrations Held Against High Prices in Kabul [Message of Freedom]	39
President Rabbani Meets Peace Activists [Kabul Radio]	39
Taleban Fires 8 Rockets on Kabul; 2 Injured [Kabul Radio]	40
Major Convoy of Foodstuffs, Fuel Arrives in Kabul [Kabul Radio]	40

India

Situation Improves on Indian Border; No Large-Scale Army Movement [Delhi Radio]	40
Pakistan Pledges Noninterference in Indian Gas Pipeline Project [Delhi Radio]	40
Indian Commentary Blames Pakistan for Tension, Rules Out War [Delhi Radio]	40
Cambodia's Ranariddh Meets India's Rao, Sharma; Accords Signed [Delhi Radio]	41
MOU Signed for Promoting Indian Investment in Cambodia [Delhi Radio]	42
India Signs Economic, Trade Agreements With Israel [Delhi Radio]	42
Article Claims New Delhi 'Rediscovering' Russian Arms Source [THE TIMES OF INDIA 25 Jan]	42
Editorial: India's Missile Program Not Destabilizing [THE TIMES OF INDIA 30 Jan]	43
Indian Commentary: Colombo Blast Exposes 'Gaping Holes' in Security [Delhi Radio]	44
Rao Assures Safeguards Taken for India's Security [Delhi TV]	44
Indian Farmers Destroy U.S. Fast-Food Restaurant in Bangalore [Delhi TV]	44
Farmers Group Rejects New Delhi Claims About Food Supplies [AJ 9 Jan]	44
Indian Regional Party Demands 'Special Autonomous Status' for All [THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 30 Jan]	45
Indian Supreme Court Orders Wider Investigation in Hawala Scandal [Delhi Radio]	46

Iran

Iranian Commentary Calls U.S. Claim of Missile Test 'Propaganda' [Tehran International]	46
Tehran Radio Comments on PRC Warnings to Taiwan, U.S. [Tehran International]	47
Washington's 'Defeat' in Confronting Iran Analyzed [JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 21 Jan]	47
Va'ez: Tehran To Strive for Peace, Stability in Tajikistan [IRNA]	48

Iranian Energy Official, Italian Envoy Study Energy Cooperation [IRNA]	48
Iran's Habibi, Hungarian Envoy Review Prospects of Trade Ties [IRNA]	49
Tehran Daily Views Post-Election Problems in Turkey [ETTELA'AT 21 Jan]	49
Iranian Security Forces Stop Freedom Movement News Conference [IRNA]	50
More on Iranian Opposition 'Banned' From Holding News Conference [AFP]	50
Former Iranian Deputy Speaker on Rejection of Candidate Credentials [SALAM 14 Jan]	51
Iranian 'Reconstruction' Group To Publish Majles List Soon [IRNA]	52
Militant Clergy Publish List for Tehran Election [IRNA]	52
Efforts To 'Discourage' Iranians Against Elections Condemned [KEYHAN 17 Jan]	53
Former Iranian MP: More Groups Mean More Efficient Fifth Majles [IRNA]	53
Iran Daily Criticizes Candidates' 'Empty' Campaign Promises [KEYHAN 16 Jan]	54
Iran Majles Speaker Describes Added Note to Final Budget Bill [Tehran TV]	54
Iran's President Calls For Elimination of Poverty From Society [IRNA]	54
Nationwide Ceremonies Mark Iranian Revolution Anniversary [IRNA]	55
Khamene'i Praises Khomeyni on Anniversary of Revolution [IRNA]	55
Iran's Rafsanjani Speaks on Revolution Anniversary [IRNA]	55

Pakistan

Pakistan Deports Suspect in Riyadh Barracks Bombing to Saudi Arabia [THE NATION 1 Feb]	56
Pakistani Spokesman Rejects Indian Allegations About Firing [Islamabad Radio]	56
Pakistani Minister Briefs Kashmir Committee on 'Indian Attack' [Islamabad Radio]	57
Pakistan: Two Sudanese Held in Egyptian Embassy Blast Case [THE NEWS 1 Feb]	57
Pakistan: Four Companies Withdraw From Pipeline Project With Iran [THE MUSLIM 29 Jan]	58
Pakistan Assures Delhi Iranian Pipeline Not To Be Blocked [BUSINESS RECORDER 30 Jan]	58
Iran Seeks Pakistan's Help in Trade Problems Caused by U.S. Sanctions [BUSINESS RECORDER 30 Jan]	59
Pakistani Editorial Lauds New U.S. Ambassador's Views on Islam [JANG 31 Jan]	59
Pakistan Editorial: Islamic Unity Urged To Counter India's 'Hindu Imperialism' [NAWA-I-WAQT 30 Jan]	60
Pakistani Minister Confident of Ability To Thwart 'Aggression' [Islamabad Radio]	61
Pakistani Opposition Meets To Discuss Mass Resignations [THE NEWS 1 Feb]	62
Pakistan: Punjab Chief Blames PML-Nawaz Faction for Recent Blasts [Islamabad Radio]	62
Two Altaf Group 'Activists' Killed by Police in Karachi [Islamabad Radio]	63
Altaf Group 'Terrorist' Killed by Police in Karachi [Islamabad Radio]	63
Pakistani Law Minister Urges Altaf Group To Cooperate on Kashmir [Islamabad Radio]	63

Sri Lanka

Two Tamil Tigers Arrested for Sri Lanka Bomb Blast Involvement [AFP]	63
Sri Lankan Citizens Credited With Arrest of Bomb Blast Suspects [DAILY NEWS 1 Feb]	63
Over 1,400 Said Injured in Bomb Blast in Colombo [Colombo Radio]	64
Delhi Radio Reports 200 Killed in Sri Lanka Blast	65
Report Assesses Damage of Bomb Blast in Colombo [DAILY NEWS 1 Feb]	65
Sri Lankan Defense Ministry Issues Statement on Colombo Bomb Blast [DAILY NEWS 1 Feb]	66
LTTE Europe Spokesman Denies Tigers Behind Bomb Attack [Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA 1 Feb]	67
Sri Lankan Deputy Defense Minister, Bank Governor Comment on Blast [Colombo International]	68
Government Vows To Escalate Military Campaign Against LTTE [AFP]	68
LTTE Attack on Police Posts in Batticaloa Detailed [TAMIL EELAM NEWS WWW 25 Jan]	69
LTTE Report Discusses Clashes, Peace Package [TAMIL EELAM NEWS WWW 27 Jan]	70
Military Officials Claim 25 LTTE 'Terrorists' Killed [DAILY NEWS 31 Jan]	71

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Meets Turkish Envoy on Water Dispute

NC3101191996 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
1740 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today received Turkish ambassador in Cairo Yasar Yakis. After the meeting, the ambassador said that he and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid discussed the water problem between Turkey, Syria, and Iraq. He stressed his country's concern with reaching a solution to this problem through negotiations among the parties concerned. He welcomed a meeting on the foreign ministers level among the countries concerned after a new Turkish government has been formed. He noted that there is no connection between this crisis and the peace process in the Middle East. He denied reports that Turkey pressured the Syrian government using the water crisis as a means to achieve that.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid earlier met with 'Isa Darwish, Syrian ambassador in Cairo and permanent envoy to the Arab League; and Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraqi permanent envoy to the Arab League; and discussed with them the water crisis with Turkey.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Says PNC To Convene 12 Apr in Gaza

TA3101181596 *Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic* 1700 GMT 31 Jan 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Knesset member Eli Dayan, the deputy foreign minister, has said that Mr. Yasir 'Arafat informed him last night that the Palestine National Council [PNC] will hold its next meeting in Gaza on 12 April to discuss amending the Palestinian National Charter.

Our correspondent Shlomo Ganor reports that the meeting between the two men took place on the sidelines of the ceremonies in which the Olaf Palme Peace Prize was awarded in Stockholm.

PLO Executive Committee To Meet To Discuss Convening Council

JN3101150996 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1400 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The PLO Executive Committee will meet next week to discuss convening the Palestine National Council to amend some articles of the National Charter. This was announced by Jamal al-Surani, secretary of the PLO Executive Committee.

Dr. Samir Ghawshah, labor minister and Executive Committee member, has said in a statement to newspaper AL-AYYAM that the committee will meet in Gaza under chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat within the next few days to discuss developments in light of the presidential and legislative elections and the fact that the negotiations on the final status of the Palestinian territories will begin soon.

Qaddumi Denies PLO's Agreement To Amend Charter

TA3101160596 *Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic*
26 Jan 96 p 9

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] QUDS PRESS, Tunis — Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu-al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, denied that the PLO had agreed, as demanded by Israel, to cancel clauses in the Palestinian National Charter which call for the destruction of that country.

In a statement to QUDS PRESS, Qaddumi said that "the PLO Executive Committee has not agreed to annul or even amend any article of the National Charter." He added: "Only the Palestine National Council (the PLO parliament), as the Palestinian people's legislative body, has the authority to do so."

Qaddumi opposes the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and refuses to return to the self-rule areas before Israel withdraws from all the Palestinian territories which it occupied in 1967. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Hamas Spokesman Cited on Darwish Contacts With Israelis

MM3101140996 *London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic* 31 Jan 96 pp 1, 4

[Report by Mufid 'Awwad and Mahmud Abu-'Id: "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Report on Hamas Contacts With Rabbis Having Repersussions; Ghawshah Criticizes Darwish, Describing Him as Sponsor of Contacts With Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, Occupied Palestine — The report that AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT published yesterday about "secret contacts between Hamas and Israel via rabbis" has begun to provoke reactions, as the Islamic Resistance Movement "Hamas" has denied its approval of such contacts, holding Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, leader of the Islamic Movement in 1948 Palestine, responsible for trying to establish such contacts, describing him as sponsor of these attempts.

For his part, Darwish has denied playing a mediation role between Israel and Hamas. However, he pointed to efforts he is making with Rabbi Froman to secure the

release of Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. Froman confirmed this, saying that he is in touch with Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

In Amman, Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the movement will take the necessary organizational measures against anyone engaged in a dialogue on its behalf. He advised what he termed "the channels" sponsored by the [Israeli] Labor Party and the Palestinian Authority [PA] "to stop making attempts to initiate a dialogue between Hamas and a number of Zionists." These attempts, he said, are doomed to failure.

Ghawshah stressed that Hamas continues to adhere to its position of refusing to engage in a dialogue with the Zionists, whether they are secular, religious, partisan, or rabbis. He pointed to Israeli attempts to initiate contacts with Hamas at various levels, saying that his movement has always firmly refused to do that, and its position is still fixed.

Hamas' spokesman — through AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — held Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, leader of 1948 Palestine, responsible for these attempts. He said that Shaykh Darwish is sponsoring these attempts, even with regard to Rabbi Froman, rabbi of the Nakwa' [as transliterated] settlement, and that contacts are being made between him and a number of Hamas figures inside.

Ghawshah said: "Shaykh Darwish has close links with leading circles in the Labor Party and the PA, which are encouraging him to infiltrate Hamas religiously through the rabbis, since they have failed to infiltrate it politically."

In occupied Jerusalem, Shaykh Darwish stressed that an Israeli minister promised him to secure Shaykh Ahmad Yasin's release. He expects Israel to do so before the end of the blessed month of Ramadan. He declined to name the Israeli minister who made this promise, saying that "this minister is in a decisionmaking position." It is believed that Yosi Beilin or Moshe Shahal is the minister in question. Shaykh Darwish denied mediating between Hamas and the Israeli Government. He said that "there is no tendency to conclude deals between the two sides. However, there is an understanding between Hamas and the PA stipulating that Hamas must not embarrass the Palestinian Authority by any action."

On the possibility of Hamas retaliating to the murder of Yahya 'Ayyash, who was in charge of its military wing, Darwish said: "I do not think that the understanding reached will be abrogated."

Meanwhile, Rabbi Menahim Froman, who hastened last week to contact a number of Hamas leaders in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, has said that he intends to visit Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, accompanied by Shaykh Darwish. He confirmed that there is consultation with Darwish over the visit.

Froman met last week with Peres and said that the latter responded positively to the idea of including clerics in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

Fatah Official Opposes Amending Palestinian Covenant

TA3101125496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1100 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A senior Fatah leader opposes amending the Palestinian Covenant. Abu-Mahir Ghunaym, a member of the Fatah Central Committee, said that changing the covenant in effect means erasing the PLO as an organization and that the covenant's cancellation would reduce the Palestinian problem to the parameters of the Oslo accords. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that several members of the newly elected Palestinian Council in the territories have started contacts aimed at establishing an opposition bloc to constitute a counterweight to the council members who support 'Arafat.

Northern Gaza Election Rerun Concluded; Results Due 1 Feb

JN3101201996 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1900 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Balloting at the 39th and 76th polling centers in the Northern Gaza constituency ended a little while ago. Usamah Abu-Safiyah, general coordinator of the Central Election Committee in the Gaza Strip, said that 1,000 voters cast their ballots at the 76th center, while 800 voters cast their ballots at the 39th center. The vote-counting process will begin within the next three hours. The initial results are expected to be announced tomorrow. The election rerun at the two centers was supervised by the Central Election Committee and international observers. The voting process proceeded quietly and in an orderly manner.

Palestinian Front Said To Endorse Return of All PNC Members

TA3101191996 Ramallah AL-AYYAM in Arabic
30 Jan 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-AYYAM — AL-AYYAM has learned from informed sources that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) Political Bureau held a meeting last week in order to

discuss the new political situation, especially in light of the results of the elections for the Authority's presidency and the Palestinian Legislative Council, which were held on 20 January.

Moreover, the meeting discussed the convocation of a new session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] on the homeland's soil, the return of all PNC members residing in the diaspora, and the amendment of some articles of the Palestinian National Charter.

According to the same sources, the PFLP Political Bureau approved three points: First, it approved the return of all PNC members of the PFLP without exception. Second, it approved the change of the names of PFLP representatives in the PNC.

Palestinian sources say that the reasons for the change are political and "technical." The names of some representatives believed to oppose any meeting or agreement with the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], or who do not wish to return, were replaced. As for the technical reasons, they are epitomized by replacing some of the members who used to represent the PFLP through Palestinian popular associations.

As for the third issue approved by the Political Bureau, it is the endeavor to launch a dialogue with Fatah and the PNA.

According to sources close to the PNC speaker's office, the PFLP leadership submitted to this office a list of the members who represent it in the PNC and who wish to return so that the office may obtain the approval for this.

Palestinian political circles believe that the PFLP Political Bureau decisions contradict the positions of PFLP Secretary General George Habash, who announced from Damascus that he will not return before the last refugee returns to his homeland.

Moreover, AL-AYYAM has learned that the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine leadership has definitely submitted to the PNC speaker's office, through PLO Executive Committee member Taysir Khalid, a list of the members who represent it in the PNC so that their return can be arranged.

According to information from sources close to the PNC, so far the vast majority of PNC members residing abroad have submitted their names in order to return, with the exception of those who live in Damascus.

DFLP To Participate in Palestinian Municipal Elections

TA3101171396 *Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic*
30 Jan 96 p 2

[Report by Yusuf Hamid]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jerusalem — The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] spokesman has said that the Front has started its preparations to participate in the municipal elections. He said: We have already expressed our desire to participate and hope that the elections will be held at the determined date.

In an exclusive statement to AL-NAHAR, the spokesman, Usamah 'Awdah, disclosed that the DFLP has drawn up a special program for participating in these elections and that consultations are currently being held on this issue with Palestinian opposition forces and national and independent figures to prepare lists of candidates who will run in the elections in various Palestinian towns.

'Awdah added that these consultations are still going on and have not yet resulted in the setting up of specific organizations. [passage omitted]

Hamas' Ghawshah on Palestinian Municipal Elections, PNC Meeting

TA3101173296 *Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic*
30 Jan 96 p 4

[Report by Nadiya Sa'd-al-Din, exclusive for AL-NAHAR]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, ARAB MEDIA — Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah has said that "in principle" the movement will participate in the Palestinian municipal elections, slated to be held within a few months, if they are conducted "in a fair and free climate" and after a municipal law is issued by the people's will.

Ghawshah added to ARAB MEDIA that while Hamas has made its stance clear on boycotting the Palestinian elections, it will participate in all popular elections, such as municipal and trade union elections.

On the "Authority's release of some Hamas prisoners," Ghawshah added that this step was discussed at the Cairo dialogue, and there was a clause in the joint statement calling for the establishment of a committee from the two sides to resolve some pending matters, including the release of prisoners.

He said that "permitting Hamas to open a headquarters or office is something natural."

He added that despite differences in programs and views, Hamas is eager to prevent friction between it and the Authority. At the same time, Hamas wants the Palestine people to unite against the Israeli occupation. Therefore, any steps that promote national unity and unify forces against the ongoing aggressions are good steps.

Ghawshah said: But while the Authority is conducting a dialogue with Hamas, we are observing that it is trying to incite against Hamas abroad. This is inconceivable. Hamas is one, whether inside or outside.

He added: We know that there are demands which the Authority can fulfill, such as granting freedom of expression and opinion, and that there are demands which it cannot fulfill, such as releasing 3,500 Hamas prisoners in Israeli jails, but the Authority must adopt decisive positions.

On whether a second round of talks will be held between Hamas and the Authority, Ghawshah said: A decision will be made within the next few months as to how necessary is this dialogue.

He said that this matter will depend on the Authority's willingness to fulfill the demands of Hamas, which will not relinquish its firm positions, but that talk about this issue — the dialogue — is premature.

Ghawshah said: "Inviting the Palestine National Council [PNC] inside to annul the Palestinian National Charter is a grave and rejected step. We call on the PNC members to live up to the Palestinian people's expectations of them." He explained that there are more than 100 Hamas deportees and fugitives in the diaspora. He said: "We demand the repatriation of all the Palestinian people's sons — a repatriation that is not partial or conditional."

Palestinian Hamas Role in Elections Analyzed

TA3101152496 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM TIMES in English 26 Jan 96 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] QUDS PRESS — It appears that the Islamic opposition, after saying it would boycott the elections, played a larger role than expected.

From preliminary readings of the results, it appears that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] intervened in the elections successfully deceiving public opinion and political observers. It appears that it urged its members to vote for those candidates whom Hamas preferred.

A Palestinian source close to Fatah said Hamas played a very deceptive game. Not only did Hamas bolster the chances of those candidates close to Hamas in viewpoint, but they also worked to strengthen the

chances of Fatah candidates that Hamas favored over other Fatah candidates it disliked.

This created a great deal of confusion, and led to a situation in which election results had to be held up for 72 hours.

The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas sources in Damascus neither deny nor confirm the reports. An anonymous source in the movement said Hamas had boycotted the elections in the sense it had not presented any candidates. However, it was felt Hamas could not allow the electoral process to proceed without leaving its mark on them, an indirect pointer to their involvement in the course of the electoral process.

Many other opposition members, also based in Damascus, are believed to have been deceived by Hamas, too, especially as Hamas had repeatedly confirmed it would not participate in the elections.

A Palestinian source said Hamas had decided its electoral priorities thus: to ensure the success of those who are adherents of the movement, seven candidates in all; then the success of several independents, who make up one third of the Legislative Council; and finally the success of a certain number of Fatah candidates known for their good relations with the opposition.

Clearly those who planned the elections did not foresee that the opposition would intervene. They had expected them to take steps to prevent voters from heading to the polls.

Instead, they found them standing and leading the lines of voters. When the results came out, they clearly indicated that tactical voting on a large scale had taken place.

Palestinian Authority's 'Abd-Rabbuh on Banned Exhibition, Negotiations

JN3101191396 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0550 GMT 31 Jan 96

[Telephone interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture in the Palestinian Authority, by Fathi al-Barqawi; place not given; from the "New Day" program—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Barqawi] Brother Yasir, good morning.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Good morning to you.

[Al-Barqawi] How do you explain the Israeli interior minister's decision to ban the cultural exhibition you were supposed to inaugurate?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I would like to say that this is an arrogant policy and a rash course to which the Israeli

side is resorting to undermine the relations and bonds among the sons of the Palestinian people on the social and economic level. This becomes apparent when we see that checkpoints and barriers have been erected between Gaza and the West Bank and between the latter and Jerusalem. This arrogant and racist policy has even led to the erection of cultural barriers. They want to undermine the cultural bonds.

Several Arab artists wanted to hold an exhibition in Jerusalem yesterday. We did our best to render this exhibition a success in order to restore the bonds between the Jerusalem and Palestinian artists and the Arab artists.

The Israeli interior minister made an arrogant and rash decision to ban the exhibition. Army and police units rushed to the scene, as if a painting exhibition is a security threat. The Israeli politicians prefer the pretext of security in their attempts to fragment the Palestinian land and people and detach the latter from their homeland.

I believe that we should take the appropriate measures against this policy, because it is actually a racist policy. We will hold an emergency meeting today....

[Al-Barqawi, interrupting] A cabinet meeting?

[Abd-Rabbuh] What?

[Al-Barqawi] You are going to hold a cabinet meeting?

[Abd-Rabbuh] No. We will hold an emergency meeting within the framework of the Palestinian intellectuals. I believe there is also an intention to hold a conference for Palestinian intellectuals today or tomorrow to adopt a clear stand on this policy.

We will not allow this policy to be imposed on us — that we will not have the right to hold even cultural activities in Jerusalem, the heart of our homeland, and that these cultural activities should be banned while the settlers and the racists have the right to carry out all forms of aggression against our people's rights, whether by stealing the land, attacking Palestinian holy places, or infringing on all that has to do with the Palestinian people's affiliation to their homeland and rights. All this is permitted.

Just look at what they are doing in Bethlehem. They tried to steal half of the Bethlehem main road under the pretext of safe passage for settlers to the tomb of Rachel. In any case, this tomb is an Islamic site that was seized and whose history was forged. This is the main road to Bethlehem and Hebron. It links the entire southern area in the West Bank. This road links the area to Jerusalem.

Look at what is taking place in Hablah and in the Tulkarm area; an attempt to steal tens of thousands of dunums and to expand the settlements. All this is in accordance with an official policy sponsored by the Israeli army of occupation. At the same time, the rights of the intellectuals are impinged upon. While Israel says it wishes to establish relations with the Arab world and have diplomatic relations with it, Israel tries to ban Arab artists from holding an exhibition through a Palestinian institution in Jerusalem or in any other area.

[Al-Barqawi] I would like to say something you might not be aware of, Abu-Bashshar [Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh]. A draft bill will be submitted to the Knesset that, if passed, will deprive the Jerusalemites who live outside the Jerusalem municipality boundaries of the rights of residence and social security benefits.

[Abd-Rabbuh] Yes, of course. This is part of Israel's racist policy and completes it. This is a very serious matter. They harass the Jerusalem inhabitant within Jerusalem. They deprive him of the right to build a house. They impose taxes on him to force him to build a house outside the municipality boundaries. After he builds such a house, they issue a law that those who live outside the Jerusalem boundaries are not Jerusalemites and cannot enjoy the privileges of citizens who live in Jerusalem. This is the racist policy in its purest form. This policy should be confronted and exposed. It should be frankly said that what is taking place is not a balanced peace. The Arab world, the Islamic world, and the entire world should be told this. They should be told that what is taking place is not a balanced peace. What is taking place is a continuation of the racist policy to dismember the Palestinian homeland, carry out expansion and build settlements, and deprive the Palestinian people of their basic rights — not only their political rights, but also their cultural and humanitarian rights. We should adopt a stand on this policy and not allow it to pass. We should not kill peace in the name of peace.

[Al-Barqawi] What you said a short while ago on the cultural barrier and the draft bill that will be submitted to the Knesset is very good. These are a prelude to the final status negotiations on Jerusalem?

[Abd-Rabbuh] Yes, of course. They are not waiting for the final status negotiations on Jerusalem to begin. The Israeli side is not waiting. The Israeli side seeks to impose a fait accompli. Before the negotiations begin, it is trying to establish facts on the ground that will render the negotiations useless, since there will be nothing to discuss at the negotiating table. This is the essence of their policy.

This issue calls for a Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic stand, because the Jerusalem issue should be given great

importance. We should not permit such small incidents to take place — the banning of an exhibition here and there. These are precedents, serious precedents, and should not be repeated. Those who accept banning a cultural exhibition will accept more important things later.

[Al-Barqawi] I would like to ask another question. Based on our past experience, will it surprise the National Authority if Israel reneges on the date of the negotiations on the final status issues?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I believe that the date is not a problem for the Israeli side. What is important is the content of the negotiations. I believe they will respect the date. However, they may procrastinate in the negotiations. They may submit new points during the negotiations other than those we agreed on in Oslo. This is their method. That is why I do not believe the problem is whether the negotiations will begin on time. They will portray starting the negotiations on time as a great achievement. It is not an achievement, but a small part of the agreement we reached. We agreed that the negotiations should begin this year. The real achievement will be if they respect what was agreed upon with regard to the contents of the negotiations. The most important element in the contents of the negotiations, as stipulated in the Oslo agreement, is to implement Resolution 242. This is the objective of the final status negotiations. When we speak of the implementation of Resolution 242, this means full withdrawal and ending the occupation of all the territories that were occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem.

[Al-Barqawi] Then we will face an important stage that I believe will be the most significant in the history of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. Thank you and good morning.

Palestinian Security Forces Conducting Manhunt for Infiltrators

TA3101125596 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
31 Jan 96 p A1

[Report by 'Amira Hess]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian security forces have launched a manhunt for two persons who infiltrated among the 250 Palestinian policemen who entered the Gaza Strip via the Rafah border checkpoint yesterday. The Israeli security authorities have approved the entrance of the policemen, who came from Libya to join the Palestinian security forces in the West Bank.

The Palestinian security forces initially suspected that three Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] terrorists managed to infiltrate into the Gaza Strip among the group

of policemen. A senior Palestinian security source subsequently told HA'ARETZ that the manhunt is being conducted after two persons who are not Abu-Nidal members and whose organizational affiliation is still unknown. As this report is being filed, the search for the two is continuing.

Over the last year the Palestinian security authorities have twice reported the detention of several Abu-Nidal supporters who were suspected of planning to assassinate Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. As far as is known, none of them have been brought to trial so far. The Abu-Nidal organization has no organizational infrastructure in the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian DFLP Member Sees Opposition Role in Permanent Accord Talks

TA0102055796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0500 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Muhammad Jadallah, a Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] leader in the territories, said that the Palestinian opposition, which opposes the Oslo agreements, will actively participate in the Palestinian negotiating team for the permanent settlement with Israel. Jadallah told our correspondent that the change in the position of opposition elements is due to the fact that these will be fateful negotiations on the future of the Palestinians and will include Jerusalem, the settlements, and the permanent boundaries. 'Arafat cannot ignore the fact that the opposition represents wide sectors of the Palestinian people, he said.

Yasir 'Arafat Returns From Sweden

JN3101150596 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1000 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat returned to the homeland today after a visit to Sweden, where he met with the Swedish king, Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson, and a number of officials. 'Arafat's talks centered on the progress in the Middle East peace process and the Swedish role in this regard.

'Arafat attended a ceremony in memory of the late Prime Minister Olaf Palme, in which youths from the Fatah Movement, the Israeli Peace Now Movement, and the Israeli Labor Party were awarded a prize named after the late Swedish prime minister.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli Delegates Comment on Conclusion of Wye Round

TA0102054496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0500 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A statement issued by the United States, Israel, and Syria says this week's peace talks in Maryland laid a solid basis for a shuttle tour between Jerusalem and Damascus next week by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The statement says the negotiations significantly advanced discussion of key issues in a future treaty, adding that there were also differences of substance or perspective.

The head of the Israeli team, Uri Savir, believes there will be another round of talks in Maryland after

Christopher's visit to the region. Savir told Qol Yisra'el: In the latest round, the two delegations focused on security issues but also discussed normalization of relations and economic matters and, he said, the gaps between the positions of the two sides were narrowed. Savir also said the United States had announced it intends to play a more central role in helping to resolve the issue of water. The Israeli delegation has left Washington for Israel to report on the results of this week's talks.

Israel's ambassador to the United States, Itamar Rabinovich, who is also a member of the negotiating team, says peace with Syria this year is a realistic possibility, but Rabinovich told an audience in Palm Beach, Florida, that a deep gap remains on security issues.

Algeria

Rescheduled Algerian Farmers' Debts Reach 5 Billion Dinars in '95

LD3101205296 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The rescheduled debts of farmers at the national level reached five billion dinars in 1995. This was stressed by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Nourreddine Bahbouh during his visit to Saida province yesterday.

The rescheduling of farmers' debts is for a period of 12 years without interest and a period of grace of two years. [passage omitted]

Algerian Council Examines Draft Law To Protect National Economy

LD3101173096 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia today chaired a meeting of the Council of Government, which examined a draft ordinance on judicial and administrative agents put forward by the justice minister. This text defines the terms of the appointment of the judicial and administrative agent and his rights and duties. This agent is backed by the competent judicial authorities to safeguard the assets and administer the property of bankrupt traders or companies that have gone into liquidation.

The cabinet also examined a draft ordinance on the repression of violations of the law on the currency exchange system and the movement of capital from and to the country before it is submitted to the Council of Ministers. This draft document is aimed, in the light of the market economy, at setting up a suitable, flexible, and well-defined legal framework, which would include all the elements needed to protect the national economy. This text, which would be an important tool to encourage and promote foreign trade, would also define the violations, their characteristics, and the procedures for prosecution in addition to the definition of the sanctions that would need to be applied.

During this meeting the Council of Government also listened to a report submitted by the minister of communications and culture that focused on the restructuring of the public print press. The cabinet also examined and approved a number of decisions.

Further on Algerian Security Forces Killing of 'Criminal Groups'

LD3101201396 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Concerning the security situation, the security forces have, according to a statement by their security services, killed numerous criminal groups during several search operations.

The security forces killed five criminals in Chlef on 29 January; three criminals were killed on 28 January in the same province.

Five criminals were also killed on the same day in Tissemslit.

The security forces have also killed four criminals in Bouguerra, Blida province.

On the same day, the security forces also killed four criminals in Douar Ouled Amar, in Ouled Moussa, in Boumerdes.

The security forces also killed nine other criminals in this province and other provinces.

The security forces seized three Kalashnikov rifles, six automatic pistols, and 14 hunting rifles during these operations.

Algerian HAMAS Head Rules Out Dialogue With 'Armed Fundamentalists'

LD3101195596 Paris Radio France International in French 1730 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, Mahfoud Nahnah, the head of the legal Islamist party HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement], who was in second place in the November presidential elections, has categorically ruled out any dialogue with armed fundamentalists. He said this in an interview published today in the newspaper, LE MATIN.

Algerian HAMAS Leader Calls For Dialogue With 'Criminal Groups'

LD3101173796 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the Islamic Society Movement [HAMAS], has denounced the political coverage [as heard] of the criminal groups and called for clemency and dialogue. In an interview with the daily LIBERTE, Mr. Nahnah stressed the need for clemency in accordance with the principles of Islam and humanity. He also said that it was up to the judiciary to decide on legal cases provided it was independent.

Regarding the political situation, Mr. Mahfoud Nahnah said there were points of agreement between his movement, the people, and the political parties, and also between his movement and the authorities. He added: We are trying to widen these points to make them a common denominator with the other operators.

Algerian FIS Said Ready To Negotiate With Authorities

LD0102094396 *Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 1 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] LA TRIBUNE and LE MATIN concentrated on their first two pages on the readiness of the dissolved party FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] to negotiate with the authorities without preconditions. We read the following headlines from LA TRIBUNE:

Due to its conviction that the continuation of armed actions leads nowhere, the Islamic Salvation Army [AIS] says it is ready to call for an unconditional unilateral truce.

The newspaper writes: The organization of Madani Mezrak [AIS commander] has sent messages to President Zeroual, Mohamed Betchine, and the national veterans' organization in which it clearly expresses its readiness for a truce without conditions, except for the authorities' assent to hold a dialogue with it.

As for LE MATIN, it entitled the subject as: The Dissolved Party Searches for an Exit.

Under this title, it writes that in a message addressed to the authorities, Madani Mezrak, the AIS commander, set only one condition for stopping terrorism: the release of Abassi Madani.

Truck Explosion, Bomb Kill 14, Injure Over 30 in Algeria

LD0102113696 *Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1000 GMT 1 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] There has been a new wave of violence in Algeria: 14 people were killed and over 30 injured on 31 January in the explosion of a booby-trapped truck in (Amadi) and a bomb in Baraki, near Algiers.

Egypt

Cairo Radio Reports Anti-Sudan UN Resolution, Envoy's Reaction

NC0102070096 *Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 1 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The UN Security Council has condemned the failed assassination attempt against President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa on 26 June. In

a unanimously adopted resolution last night, the Security Council strongly denounced the flagrant violation of Ethiopia's sovereignty and safety and the attempt to disturb peace and security in that country and in the entire region as a result of the assassination attempt. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi, Egypt's permanent representative at the United Nations, described the terrorist assassination attempt against President Husni Mubarak upon his arrival in Addis Ababa to attend the African summit as a horrible crime reflecting an organized conspiracy that had been planned for a long time. He said the attack, although very grave, was not brought up in the Security Council until six months later. This is despite the fact that the Ethiopian investigations proved beyond a doubt that some terrorists involved in the crime escaped back to Sudan, he said.

Ambassador al-'Arabi was delivering a statement after the issuing of the Security Council resolution. He stressed that the two peoples of the Nile Valley [Egyptians and Sudanese] are linked by historical and eternal relations. He emphasized that Egypt is very interested in seeing the Sudanese people have good relations with all their neighbors, especially with Egypt. This will only reflect the deep-rooted bonds between the two peoples, which have lasted throughout history and will continue to be as strong.

Madeleine Albright, U.S. representative at the United Nations, described the sinful terrorist attack against President Mubarak as one of the most abhorrent acts of recent international terrorism. In a statement, she said Ethiopia and Egypt are not the only victims of this phenomenon. Terrorism sponsored by foreign states, she said, is often a fact of life. It is not confined to these countries, but it extends from Eritrea to Israel to Pakistan to Sri Lanka.

Egypt's Musa Receives Message From Eritrean Counterpart

NC3101223496 *Cairo MENA in Arabic 2131 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has received a written message from his Eritrean counterpart Solomon Petros on the Eritrean-Yemeni conflict over the al-Hanish al-Kabir island. He received the message this evening during a meeting with Eritrean ambassador in Cairo Muhammad 'Ali 'Amr [name as transliterated].

After the meeting, the Eritrean ambassador said that the message deals with the situation of Eritrean nationals in Yemen. He stressed that the Egyptian-Ethiopian-French efforts to resolve the Yemeni-Eritrean conflict

are continuing. He noted that international arbitration will be the alternative if the current mediation efforts fail to reach a peaceful solution that is satisfactory to both parties. He expressed his optimism about solving the crisis between his country and Yemen saying "all problems have solutions if intentions are good." He said that his country has no sensitivity about sitting at the negotiating table with the Yemeni brothers to resolve this conflict. He pointed out that the Eritrean president asked for a meeting with the Yemeni president, even in Sanaa.

The Eritrean ambassador reiterated his praise for Egypt's role and endeavors to solve the conflict between Yemen and Eritrea peacefully. He stressed that his country is keen to notify the Egyptian Government about any problem or incident that occurs between Eritrea and Yemen proceeding from Egypt's interest in the stability of the situation in the region. He also reiterated Eritrea's readiness to solve the conflict peacefully within a bilateral, regional, or international framework. He pointed out that simultaneous withdrawal of the forces of both countries from the disputed island represents a real start for solving the dispute. He denied reports that a five-sided meeting will be held in Cairo among the foreign ministers of Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Yemen, and Eritrea.

Egyptian State Security Foils 'Terrorist Scheme'; 45 Suspects Arrested

NC3101142196 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An official security source announced today that State Security intelligence bodies have thwarted a terrorist scheme involving 45 terrorists. These people had been trying to revive their activities and carry out terrorist operations during the 'Id al-Fitr holiday season.

Eleven members of this organization were arrested in Alexandria today, 24 in Port Said Governorate, and 10 in al-Gharbiyah Governorate. This last group represented the entire membership of the organization in al-Gharbiyah.

'Terrorists' Reportedly Targeted Vital Egyptian Installations, Officials

NC3101163296 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA)—An official security source at the Interior Ministry announced that State Security intelligence organs have succeeded in thwarting a new terrorist scheme involving

45 members who tried to revive their activities and carry out attacks during the 'Id al-Fitr holiday.

The source said that 11 terrorists belonging to this organization were arrested in Alexandria today, 24 in Port Said Governorate, and 10 in al-Qalyubiyah Governorate—representing the organization's entire membership in that province. [passage omitted]

Information received by the surveillance department at the State Security Intelligence Apparatus revealed that the terrorist al-Jihad Organization was trying to reorganize several of its old cells and revive its terrorist activities inside the country and to carry out attacks during the 'Id al-Fitr holiday. The al-Jihad Organization was also looking for new sources of financing by declaring the seizure of funds and other possessions religiously permissible and then obtaining these things by armed robbery and other forms of theft. The organization needed new sources of financing after the authorities succeeded in severing its communication channels and blocking the sources from which it used to receive funds and weapons, in addition to striking at its leaders at home and abroad. [passage omitted]

The Interior Ministry source said that investigations and surveillance showed that the terrorist organization tried to organize new armed cells in remote slum areas in the three governorates. An attempt was made to recruit new members and inculcate them in extremist ideologies. The organization also sought to select individuals known for their inclination to extreme violence and their experience in storming operations and martial arts. The organization's plans included the selection of some vital installations and prominent personalities as targets.

Some members of the organization, including some who had received military training and were hiding in the provinces because they were wanted by the police, carried out surveillance over several vital installations, security buildings, and places of worship with a goal of storming and occupying them. They also placed some senior security officials, clerics, and prominent public personalities under surveillance, determining their places of residence, routes, and means of transport. They tried to obtain quantities of automatic weapons and ammunition from merchants and middlemen dealing in unlicensed weapons. [passage omitted]

When their hideouts were stormed, sums of money, organizational documents, and other important material evidence proving the suspects' involvement in a criminal terrorist scheme were seized.

The suspects made detailed confessions about their roles in the criminal terrorist scheme and their plans to carry out violent attacks on several prominent personalities.

security officials, vital installations, and clerics. [passage omitted]

Mashhur Interviewed on Muslim Brotherhood's Future, al-Wasat Role

MM3101165996 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
28 Jan-3 Feb 96 p 29

[Interview with Mustafa Mashhur, Egyptian MB general guide, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-MAJALLAH] After the measures taken against you in 1995, what will you do?

[Mashhur] We are a group of people with convictions and not just a party for some local purposes. Therefore, what happened to us will not hinder our activities which are part of our life and of the individual's life. We will continue our mission even after the headquarters' closure, whether through conferences, dialogues, or any other legal means. We will complete our march and accomplish our mission, because this is our duty. If the government closes one door, we shall open another.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What will you do with regard to the military court's ruling to close your headquarters?

[Mashhur] We have made an appeal and are demanding that it be accepted.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Do you think that the government will do nothing should the court rule in your favor?

[Mashhur] This, in any case, depends on the government's honesty. If it allows us to work, this is fine, but if it tightens the noose around us, God will help us.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What if the government rejects your request?

[Mashhur] We can only resort to the law and we will not use force. If the law vindicates us, we shall work as in the past, otherwise we shall appeal the decision.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Has the closure of your headquarters hindered your activities?

[Mashhur] Naturally, it is more difficult, but this does not mean that we have cut the ties. We are still in touch and meet, but in a limited way.

[AL-MAJALLAH] It has often been said that you do not welcome the initiative of the Muslim Brotherhood's [MB] young people for presenting the documents of the al-Wasat party. Is this true?

[Mashhur] They are young people who have found that the government is still putting pressure on them, so they have decided to establish a legal party through which they can work. This, however, does not mean that this

party is the MB or a political front for us. We have not banned them from establishing a party and they are free to act as they think. If they succeed, we can do it again.

Egypt's al-Wasat Party Leader Interviewed, Discusses MB Ties

MM3101164896 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
28 Jan-3 Feb 96 pp 28-29

[Interview with Engineer Abu-al-'Ula Madi, leader of the Egyptian al-Wasat Party, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-MAJALLAH] You deny that your party has any links to the Muslim Brotherhood [MB]. Does this mean that you have excluded that group's ideology from the party's program?

[Madi] The MB's ideology is that of a large section of the so-called Islamic tendency, and is not the exclusive possession of one specific group. Instead, it is a broad tendency with many followers, and we consider ourselves part of this broad Islamic tendency. The party's members are a reflection of this tendency, and we believe that the Egyptian people widely reflect this tendency. That is why we were keen to represent all the groups in Egyptian society, including men, women, and the Copts.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Are you not a member of the MB?

[Madi] What I said is clear. I said that the MB is a very broad tendency and ideology, and by this definition I belong to the MB.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Why did you decide to present the party's program at precisely this time?

[Madi] Of course there were reasons for the timing, and it was not a random decision. It is in fact an old idea put forward in the group's circles since 1986, but it was a vague idea and was not a real option. It was put forward on the premise that it was a natural evolution for a group of young people who were successful in public action at university. For instance, in 1977 I was elected president of the students' union. At the university we were all united on this idea, and were thus able to take up the Egyptian students' union. The 1979 students' union was for us the last union, because I was arrested during the same year for criticizing the Camp David agreement, and after that, the union was dissolved while I was in prison. We thought about public action, we established charity institutions and associations, and after graduating we undertook union action. Some of us joined the doctors' union in 1984, and I joined the engineers' union in 1985. Some years later, we progressed to thinking about moving to party political

action and ways of founding a party: its program, legal limitations, financing, obstacles, etc.... In 1995 the government started its vicious attack on the unions by disabling the unions and putting restrictions on their work. The idea soon became clearer and developed into an inevitable option, and we began thinking about issues and outlines. In 1995 the government started tightening the noose on professional unions, and in the same year these unions effectively ground to a halt and did not hold any elections. The situation evolved because of the ruling to sequester and take control of the engineers' union. We then entered the election process, which started with arrests and ended with trials.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Does this mean that those who failed in the elections were the al-Wasat's founders?

[Madi] Some, but not all of them. It is not right to attribute something to just one factor, because, as I said, the party is the result of 10 years and of the historical evolution of an ideology. Circumstances led to speeding it up.

[AL-MAJALLAH] The party's name does not lack political symbols. Did you want to convey any particular message?

[Madi] The party's name certainly has a meaning. We chose "al-Wasat" ["the middle"] to express and convey a message with regard to the party's ideology. It is neither from the right, nor the left. It is in the center between the two. Many of the party's founders belong to the Islamic tendency, and therefore we see traces of this ideology in the program within the framework of a secular rather than religious party. The party is an Islamic vision in a secular context and an acceptable secular message. I maintain that words and formulas in this program carry a different message hitherto unheard from the Islamic tendency, and I hope that the validity of this claim will be apparent to whoever examines the program. Some people have accused us of having ambiguous positions, and we now say to them that we have specific issues which have not been raised before.

[AL-MAJALLAH] In what way does your program differ from the Labor Party's program, which has an Islamic leaning?

[Madi] The Labor Party agrees with us on some issues, but we differ in many ways, such as our position on national unity, terrorism, unemployment, boosting national action, the family, and women. Our proposal is new in the wake of an international culture which, by means of conferences, tries to diffuse the idea of the family break-up. Parties are made up of programs and components. If a party agrees with us on some part of the program, we would still remain at odds, because a

party's components such as its history and leadership remain an integral part of it.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Does this mean that you are not satisfied with the existing parties?

[Madi] We are convinced that political action in Egypt will not progress unless there are strong parties. A large number of people do not belong to these parties. We want to attract this group. We are not against what is available, but we want to add something new to what is already there. In union work, we tried to deal with an important group which was almost marginalized because of its awareness, and this led to a negative reaction. The educated person does not vote, but the grocer, the doorman, and the worker vote because they are afraid to pay a one or 10 pound fine and not because they are convinced of the electoral process. Naturally, this is wrong. This group is almost alienated, yet it knows us very well and has had dealings with us either at university during the seventies, or in the professional unions during the last 10-12 years.

[AL-MAJALLAH] In the past, you have disagreed with the MB's official spokesman during the negotiations on the national charter project last year which Counselor Ma'mun al-Hudaybi insisted on not signing, thus preventing the MB from signing it, but you went ahead and signed it despite the MB's official position. Was this the beginning of a rift in the ranks?

[Madi] No, but I will take this opportunity to reconfirm the definition that I gave, namely that a party is a reflection of its founders. I do not know why one should view it from the angle of a conspiracy theory and think that there is a disagreement and rift, why should there not be one tendency with multiple views on certain issues? This was the case with the national charter project, when I signed according to my personal belief, and not as a MB representative, and this after Fu'ad Basha, Khalid Mohiyy-al-Din, Dr. Milad Hanna, Dr. Sa'id al-Najjar, and Dr. Salim al-Awwa signed. Counselor al-Hudaybi had some reservations about the meaning of some terms such as democracy, and wanted to define them, while I agreed on them without restrictions, because to me, democracy means that the majority can do what it wants. Counselor Ma'mun believes that it should act in accordance with the principles of the Islamic shari'ah. Let us suppose that people say that they do not want the Islamic shari'ah. Will I have to impose it on them? If I did that, I would have failed.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Did you consult with the MB's leading shaykhs with regard to the party project?

[Madi] No.

[AL-MAJALLAH] But they gave their opinion?

[Madi] We are still at the stage where there are still reactions taking place, because I presented it and then went on a trip for several days.

[AL-MAJALLAH] You expect the parties committee to reject your application, as it customarily does. Should your step be seen as a political stand just for the record?

[Madi] I expect the committee will agree, because we have justifications that it cannot reject. They must agree regardless of the political motive. There is a social problem, and real stability stems from the fact that there is a significant current of the Egyptian public outside the parties, and there are fears that it would erupt. It is in its interest that this current be brought out in the open and put under the control of the law and organs. As far as we are concerned, we have thoroughly studied the reports of the parties committee for rejecting previous applications, and avoided them. Therefore, there are no valid reasons for refusing the party.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Do you think that the state which referred some of your colleagues to military tribunals could allow you to establish a party?

[Madi] First, optimism is an important part of a person's life because if he loses his optimism he will achieve nothing. Secondly, everything that has been said about our honorable colleagues against whom rulings were issued is untrue, unjustified, and illogical. They have tried to focus on only one point, namely that these (brothers) belong to an illegal organization, and we say to them that we have made an application to establish a legal party, so now what will you do?

[AL-MAJALLAH] Then your motive is political, aimed at embarrassing the government, and not because of a real desire to found a party....

[Madi] No, both at the same time, because it is an old idea. But circumstances have speeded it up and many have come to see me and said that what we have done has put the government in a quandary. We believe that if it is intelligent, it will agree.

Egyptian Government Announces Measures Adopted for Agricultural Production

NC3101191796 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The cabinet continued today discussing its agricultural development policy. Prime Minister Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri announced at the beginning of the meeting that increasing agricultural output, a major objective at this time, will bring the country closer

towards self-sufficiency with regard to basic food commodities.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that the cabinet adopted several measures to speed up agricultural development, notably reducing interest rates on loans extended by the Development and Agricultural Credit Bank by three percent. This, he noted, will encourage farmers and ease their burdens.

The cabinet also decided to plant one million feddans with cotton, supply select seeds and fertilizers on the required dates without delay, undertake to prepare the land where cotton crops are to be raised at state expense, and ensure a minimum price of 500 Egyptian pounds for every qantar of cotton. It decided to allow exportation of long-fiber cotton as of today.

The cabinet decided to maintain the current distribution system of locally manufactured fertilizers, which amounts to 6.3 million tons of various types.

Concerning the development of livestock, poultry, and fishery resources, the cabinet decided to permit the growing of fodder maize everywhere in the republic for use as the main component of cattle and poultry feed and to allow the importation of additional quantities of this crop.

The cabinet decided to allocate 200 million pounds, to be loaned by local banks at an annual interest rate of nine percent, for livestock raising projects. It decided to review the debts owed by poultry farmers with the aim of reducing their burdens, make feed available, and encourage the building of mechanized slaughterhouses and cold storage facilities.

This policy seeks to raise 200,000 new heads of cattle and increase poultry production by 50,000 tons annually.

Concerning fisheries, the cabinet increased the fish intake at Nasser Lake and encouraged the founding of companies that conduct fishing operations in international waters.

The information minister reported that Prime Minister al-Janzuri said that several laws and republican decrees have been passed to ensure the implementation of the cabinet's measures.

Libya

Libyan Editor Denies 'Billion Dollar' Donation to Farrakhan

LD0102100596 Tripoli JANA in English
0847 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, An Nawar [Feb] 1, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The American

newspaper THE NEW YORK POST reported that the leader of the Nation of Islam movement, Louis Farrakhan, might be summoned before the American House of Representatives to give evidence on the billion dollar donated by Col. Mu'ammarr al- Qadhdhafi so as to influence the United States policy.

JANA's editor for international affairs start his commentary by expressing surprise at the report of this newspaper becoming a source for the talk of these American circles on the billion dollars. The editor stressed "while we unequivocally deny that the Great Jamahiriyyah donated this sum, we would like to express regret and sorrow at the continued tyranny of the racist tendency at all levels of American political circles in a manner revealing beyond any doubt that America is not a democratic state which represents freedom and against human rights, self determination and practices all forms of terrorism against its black nationals.

The editor asked "is there anything more horrendous than repressing the freedom of the individual, his right to live in dignity and to remove any oppression and injustice against him by setting up committees of inquiry and the most senior political circles make moves and take this action against brother Louis Farrakhan for no reason except that the oppressed minorities headed by blacks, Arabs, Muslims and Red Indians decided to mobilize themselves in a legal and legitimate manner so as to enable themselves to play an important role in the American political life and enlist themselves in the electoral register which is a right guaranteed by the citizenship character of these minorities so that they can obtain their legitimate and legal rights and have a voice and dignity in a country which claims to protect human rights and alledges that it is against repressing fundamental freedoms.

The editor added "what is the meaning of democracy being claimed by America and human rights which America talks about ceaselessly while we see this total American official bias to the Jews who represent only minority and have no like to America and they are very distant from it. Whereas for example the Red Indians, who are of Libyan origin, are the indogenous inhabitants of America. But the Jews are at the bottom of the list of those who can be described as citizens.

The editor expressed the hope that America will lessen this tension which amounts to intransigence in dealing with any issue in which the Great Jamahiriyyah is a part. This attitude is against logic and keep away everyone from understanding the real nature of things.

Concluding his commentary, JANA's editor for international affairs stressed that this blunt treatment will not lead anywhere. The Great Jamahiriyyah has drawn

attention to one clear fact known to all Americans to all others. It is the non-recognition by the whites of the rights by other minorities which represent the harshest and the most extreme form of oppression which will lead to serious repercussions inside America for these minorities, like it happened in the former Soviet Union will not abandon their rights to freedom and equality. All we have done was to inform you of the truth and the importance of granting minorities their rights from a modern and historical stand and that is what should happen and should be treated in a wise and reasonable manner and not through convulsion, tension and deception wich do not lead to any result.

Sudan

UNSC Formally Accuses Sudan of Supporting 'Terrorism'

AB3101222696 Paris AFP in English
2219 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United NATIONS, Jan 31 (AFP) — The UN Security Council on Wednesday [31 January] formally accused Sudan of supporting terrorism and demanded the extradition of three Islamic militants wanted for an assassination attempt against the Egyptian president.

The moves, contained in a resolution adopted here unanimously, could pave the way for future coercive action by the international community against Khartoum, western diplomats said.

The text called on Sudan to "desist from engaging in activities of assisting, supporting and facilitating terrorist activities and from giving shelter and sanctuaries to terrorist elements."

It urged Sudan to "undertake immediate action to extradite" to Ethiopia the three suspects "sheltering in Sudan" who are wanted in connection with last June's assassination attempt against Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa.

Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Taha last week travelled to New York to urge the Security Council to drop a complaint from Ethiopia that Sudan was failing to act on extradition requests for the three already formulated by the Organisation of African Unity.

Sudan maintains that authorities had searched for the three men but failed to find them. It has also denied any role in the attempt to kill Mubarak in the Ethiopian capital on June 26 as well as Egyptian allegations that it backs Moslem militants in Egypt seeking to topple the government.

The resolution adopted on Wednesday was prepared by six non-aligned countries led by Egypt acting on the Ethiopian complaint formulated in a letter to the Security Council on January 9.

Sudan, which has accused the United States of joining forces with Egypt on the resolution, has problems with a number of neighbouring states, including border tensions with Egypt and Uganda. Kampala broke off relations with Sudan last year.

Sudanese Press: Relations With Egypt Reach All-Time Low

AB0102112596 Paris AFP in English
1056 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 1 Feb (AFP) — The Sudanese press on Thursday [1 February] warned Egypt that relations between the two neighbours had plunged to an all-time low after the UN adopted an Egyptian-sponsored resolution accusing Khartoum of supporting terrorism.

"This Egyptian position takes bilateral relations into a dark impasse and instills in the Sudanese people bitterness that cannot be removed easily," the daily AL-AKHBAR AL-YOUM wrote.

The UN Security Council resolution, passed unanimously on Wednesday, demands the extradition of three Islamic militants wanted for an assassination attempt against Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak last June and who are believed to be in Sudan. The resolution was prepared by six non-aligned countries led by Egypt.

Diplomats in New York said it could pave the way for sanctions against Sudan. "The proposal's first victim will be the Sudanese people who the Egyptian Government has always underlined it is not targeting," AL-AKHBAR AL-YOUM wrote.

"The relations between the two countries have deteriorated to a degree at which Egypt, with which we share water from the Nile and to which we are bound by historical ties, adopts a proposal at the Security Council against Sudan."

Cairo, which has long accused Sudan of backing Muslim militants trying to overturn the Egyptian Government, charged that Khartoum was behind the failed bid to kill Mubarak in Addis Ababa on June 26.

The Sudanese Government daily AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH also launched a bitter attack on Egypt on Thursday. "The Egyptian regime, by moving the international community against Sudan, causes enmity with the Sudanese people that will be passed down to many generations."

It said Cairo lacked "objectivity and logic" toward its southern neighbour, and had used its Security Council seat "to the worst" to bring action against Sudan. The two countries are also at odds over the Red Sea border region of Hala'ib, where they clashed last year.

Clashes Between Police, Citizens Reported North of Khartoum

NC3101141496 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bloody clashes occurred between the Sudanese police and citizens north of Khartoum last night. Press reports today said there were casualties on both sides and citizens were arrested.

Reportedly, the police, who received reinforcements during the clashes, used tear gas to disperse citizens.

Sudanese Foreign Minister on Ethiopia, Gulf Relations

MM3101160996 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 31 Jan 96 p 17

[Interview with Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha by Imam Muhammad Imam in Khartoum; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Imam] Do you believe you can prevent a [UN] Security Council condemnation of your country over Ethiopia's allegation of Sudan's complicity in the assassination attempt on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak?

[Taha] On this matter, Sudan is outwardly and inwardly the same. We have said that Sudan neither uses nor condones political assassination. That is clear to anyone who knows Sudan. The method of political assassination is against the Sudanese people's nature and way of settling political differences. Everyone knows that Sudan is suffering a mutiny movement which has exhausted its resources and denied it many opportunities for stability, development, and reconstruction, but despite that, no one in Sudan has contemplated defeating it through assassination of the mutiny leaders even though that would be easy to do and also legitimate in view of the harm done to Sudan, despite what some may believe. But that has continued to be rejected and has not been open to discussion on the political agendas of political action in Sudan under the successive different regimes.

Furthermore, Sudan now has political opposition at home and abroad. In the view of some, that opposition has also crossed the red line in resorting to violence and seeking foreign assistance which takes the matter out of the national circle into other circles, but, despite that, nobody has contemplated allowing or legitimizing any

method of physical liquidation or political assassination of those doing that. The political leadership has decided to let the people, history, and public opinion be the judge. Their verdict is usually objective and reassuring as far as results are concerned.

As regards the matter of the assassination attempt on the Egyptian president, that was immediately and promptly condemned at the highest levels of head of state and foreign minister, and Sudan expressed willingness to cooperate in unraveling the mysteries of that case in any way it is requested to. That remains our position to this moment. When we expressed willingness to cooperate with the OAU and other states, we did so not from the standpoint of someone who stands accused but from the standpoint of someone who is responsible, from a sense of responsibility toward the larger family one belongs to and the principles one believes in and advocates. When allegations are made, actions should reflect the true sense of belonging and express these principles. That is why we expressed these views yet again at the meeting of the committee for the settlement of African disputes, and its members were convinced.

I must here express our thanks and appreciation for all brothers in the African states whose objective and deep comments and whose conscious awareness of the attempt to exploit that African mechanism and platform to peddle designs which neither express nor favor the continent's interests — whose position and deep understanding contributed to the prevalence of reason and logic in favor of keeping the matter within its African context. That is why the regrettable fact that a state like Ethiopia has chosen to abandon that context and go to UN arenas was an individual violation which could not carry the African will and decision, which cannot be based on falsehoods; in fact this isolated it [Ethiopia] because we had to address the matter more seriously. That is why we contacted the OAU secretary general and invited him to come to Sudan to consider with us how to contain the matter. We deal with the matter very openly and are prepared to inform our brothers in the OAU of all the measures we have taken in this respect and to agree with them on a course that would lead to the truth which is everyone's common objective.

I repeat that Sudan had no interest in, was not a party to, and had no part in that matter and, therefore, has nothing to hide or to fear. I say that it is our conviction that Egyptian national security and Sudanese national security are two sides of the same coin. We have said so openly and secretly to the Egyptians and we still hope that the Egyptians will understand our sincere intentions and deal with us positively in a manner that would

improve Egyptian-Sudanese relations in the face of any future negative developments.

As regards the Ethiopian complaint against Sudan at the Security Council alleging involvement in the attempt to assassinate the Egyptian president, it is an Ethiopian attempt to deviate from the African will. Having failed to get a decision from the committee for the settlement of African disputes condemning Sudan on that issue, it went to the United Nations accusing Sudan of supporting terrorism. Regrettably, we tried hard to explain our position on that matter to the Security Council but it denied us the chance to express the Sudanese position on the charges made by Ethiopia against Sudan, and it refused to treat us equally with Ethiopia, because it did hear the Ethiopian position on the matter.

[Imam] What role does the Foreign Ministry intend to play in facing the Ethiopian complaint against Sudan at the Security Council?

[Taha] We depend, after God, on our argument and on holding more contacts with all the parties concerned to explain the facts. Although we know that the Security Council arena is full of plots, clouds, and incitement against Sudan, we are confident that the issue will be a test of the Security Council's credibility more than it is a test for Sudan. So far, the indications we have are good.

[Imam] Has Sudan been able to win new votes in the voting on its position on human rights at the United Nations recently?

[Taha] Yes, Sudan has been able to win new votes at the United Nations as a result of the enhanced understanding of the fabricated charges against Sudan on the issue of human rights. As the saying goes, nobody can fool all the people all the time. Lies are short-lived. Sudan's contacts with many states and its reception of delegations and visitors objectively seeking the truth have helped greatly. We must here point with much appreciation to the position of the developing world and especially the Arab world. All the Arab states were convinced at this session that taking a stand against Sudan on that issue would be most regrettable, and the African states took the same position. Unlike the past, no African state supported the draft resolution. The same thing applies to the Latin American and Pacific states, with the exception of just one state. All these states refrained from supporting the draft resolution condemning Sudan for its position on human rights. In fact, many of them abstained in the voting or did not attend the session. Judging by a count of the votes gained, the process of exposing the truth is very clearly

moving forward. We are confident that the search for the truth will end in Sudan's interest.

[Imam] What about Sudan's relations with the Gulf states?

[Taha] We have made some contacts with the brothers in Saudi Arabia at various levels. I can say that our relations with the brothers in that region are moving steadily toward relaxation and restoration of trust which is important to all. The Arab nation cannot meet the current challenges otherwise and, despite the new attire, it remains basically the same. We believe in the reality of the conflict we are going through and we believe in defending our origins. We in Sudan are daily paying the price of our Arab identity. That is why the conviction we hold and the view we pass to our brothers is that someone with such a concept and views should not, on account of his policies or positions, have to pay a price for his Arab identity and should not be stabbed in the back. Time will record all that. On our relations with Kuwait, I say that it is just a matter of time. We have given numerous signals to the brothers in Kuwait of our sincere interest in restoring normal Sudanese-Kuwaiti relations, but we understand their bitterness resulting from a unique and difficult experience, and we are not in a hurry for something to occur prematurely but we are confident that our relations will move toward relaxation, God willing.

On our relations with Saudi Arabia in particular, I repeat that under the special relations between Sudan and Saudi Arabia, the Red Sea is not a barrier but rather a link between the two countries. That is why we attach some importance to meetings and cooperation between the two countries and we highly appreciate the understanding we recently received from the brothers in Saudi Arabia, reflecting the way the brothers in Saudi Arabia address issues of interest to their neighbors. I beseech God to give Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz good health, grant Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz success in shouldering the trust given to him by the custodian of the two holy mosques, and help the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia remain a stable haven to which Muslim hearts turn as a bastion and meeting place that brings them together whenever they seek it.

Our relations with the rest of the Gulf states are steadily improving and we are in constant contact with the brothers in Qatar, the Sultanate of Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain with a view to strengthening the bond of friendship between our peoples and cooperation in the interest of our countries.

[Imam] To what do you attribute the deterioration in Sudan's relations with the neighboring African states?

[Taha] Regrettably, developments in the region confirm that the regimes are in the grip of international plots aimed at tightening the international powers' control of the water outlets, and at ensuring this by destabilizing the regime in Sudan which is considered a threat to their completion of control of this region. We view with much concern the military deterioration that has recently occurred between Eritrea and Yemen, which confirms the view held by Sudan which some had considered to be emotive or hasty in tackling its situation with Eritrea. The truth has now surfaced. Secondly, international forces are putting pressure on these states against Sudan as part of their hostility to Sudan because of its cultural line and because it escaped their grip and subjugation. We are closely following developments and attempts by some to plot against Sudan including military plots against Sudan at this stage. We emphasize that, with God's help, we can crush any plot but will exercise self-restraint and will not retaliate to the flagrant aggression exceeding the limits of international law and politics. In its relations with these and other states Sudan does not proceed on the basis of any ideological or political expansionist concepts. That is because we believe that this region is one, for the cultural, political, and economic integration of its peoples. That is why we will do our best to iron out all the obstacles impeding such integration which, in the logic of history, will remain stronger than all the limited price received by one party or another to prevent it.

[Imam] We often talk about the neighboring states. What is the fate of the Sudanese peace negotiations sponsored by the African IGADD [Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development] group, in the wake of the setbacks in Sudan's relations with three of the states of this quadripartite group?

[Taha] As a result of the blemishes in relations among the African IGADD states and not just in their relations with Sudan, as you know, there is now some tension between several of these states and also between them and Sudan, as you said in your question. In view of that intermingling and complexity, it was natural that the IGADD file would be somewhat delayed...but Sudan remains committed to the fact that dialogue plays a part in remedying the issue of southern Sudan, because that, in our view, is the ideal way to reassure others and motivate them to be morally and politically committed to safeguarding whatever agreements may be signed and which they may be parties to, thus playing a moral part in ensuring their continuation. But all that depends on appropriate timing, God willing. Sudan is still convinced that IGADD should have the initiative.

[Imam] In its resolutions, the Sudanese national conference upheld general principles and guidelines for Su-

dan's foreign policy. What is the ministry's plan for the absorption of these general guidelines?

[Taha] I always maintain that foreign policy is most successful when it reflects the internal national will. The more successful the state is in building its institutions and coordinating its internal programs the more able it is to manage its relations with others. There can be no doubt that completion of the constitutional institutions will give the internal scene more solidity, strength, and interlinkage, and, God willing, that will have a positive effect on Sudan's foreign policy performance. Sudan's foreign policy has been and will remain committed to the principles of international coexistence, work for peace, and positive cooperation in meeting the challenges facing the contemporary Islamic society, which has enormous requirements for development, the fight against poverty, and the promotion of peace and justice. We in Sudan have crystallized a concept which I believe is useful for Islamic dialogue in relation to ideological and cultural principles which will govern the 21st century. Internal dialogue in Sudan between, for instance, religions, between Islam and Christianity and between ethnic affiliations, between the more growth and less growth concepts, all form the nucleus of equations, proposals, and guidelines for our participation in the international arena.

The next stage will probably witness more concentration and emphasis on our Arab, African, and Islamic relations with continued dialogue with the European states and the United States in order to contain the points of disagreement and find formulas for cooperation and dialogue.

[Imam] Several members of the national conference urged the Foreign Ministry to adopt a three-way diplomacy: Official diplomacy, popular diplomacy, and informational diplomacy. What is your ministry's reaction to that call?

[Taha] That recommendation is well received by us because it reflects one of our convictions. We believe that a successful diplomacy is one which is best able to use available means, not one restricted to just official diplomacy. The world today is intertwined with numerous images and fields of human contact. So there are many players in the diplomatic field. The ability and success of the Foreign Ministry is measured like that of a conductor or choreographer. We are now preparing a new draft law for the diplomatic corps in which a sizable part is assigned to a foreign policy planning council with the participation of the parties which play an international or regional role, whether they are institutions such as the Popular Friendship Council, ministries, universities, research centers, or public figures. That is why we concentrate on information and its role and we believe that it is important that there should be a close link between Foreign Ministry decisions and the information movement. We are currently working with the Foreign Information Department of the Ministry of Culture and Information, guided by the cabinet, to produce an effective mechanism in that field. We are also focusing on strengthening the Foreign Ministry's information section and on strengthening our links with the internal ministries. The brother ministers have agreed to have a diplomatic liaison officer from the Foreign Ministry in each ministry for the purpose of coordinating with these ministries because, as you know, they do have an external role under the federal system. They specialize in planning, training, coordination, and foreign relations. Hence the need to coordinate that external role of the federal ministries on matters pertaining to participation in conferences, seminars, and foreign issues. The aim is to establish harmony in expressing foreign policy positions and curtail discordant voices which could destroy everything built through patience.

Bahrain

Bahraini Source Tells KUNA Iranian Diplomat To Be Expelled

LD0102105696 *Kuwait KUNA in Arabic*
1011 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 1 Feb — A responsible source in the Bahraini government told KUNA today that "the Bahraini Foreign Affairs Ministry has informed the third secretary at the Iranian embassy in Manama that he is persona non grata, and his departure is required."

The source said in a telephone contact conducted by KUNA that the ministry asked the Iranian diplomat to leave "for violating the rules of his diplomatic mission, and continuing to carry out activities incompatible with diplomatic norms." The source did not clarify whether a date for the departure of the third secretary at the Iranian embassy to Bahrain has been decided.

Bahraini Papers Assail 'Tendentious' Campaigns Against Country

JN3101183096 *Manama WAKH in Arabic*
0810 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 31 Jan (WAKH) — A Bahraini newspaper has expressed its full confidence in the Bahraini people's ability to expose the real reasons for the tendentious propaganda about sectarian sedition that is being circulated by suspect circles abroad.

The Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ says that these discordant expressions, unfamiliar to the people of Bahrain throughout their history, are a tool used by those involved in the schemes concocted by known regional and international forces. These forces not only aim to destabilize Bahrain, but also to destabilize all Arab countries and ignite fires among their communities by playing the cards of sectarianism and denominationism to agitate sentiments and create an atmosphere of chaos and destruction.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ asserts that these subversive schemes will not succeed in Bahrain and that the people of Bahrain will turn back the malice of these circles. The Bahraini people are able to expose these schemes, protect their achievements, and preserve their souls by adhering to national unity and to the spirit of one family.

The paper emphasizes that the Bahraini leadership and people will not allow any transient or alien incidents to affect our civilized traditions of coexistence, tolerance, fraternity, and solidarity, which were entrenched by the people of Bahrain through a long history of sacrifice, loyalty, accord, and social peace.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ asserts that national unity and the spirit of unity will continue to be our strongest weapon to thwart all suspect schemes that target the homeland. These schemes aim to involve this secure country in the whirlpool of violence and instability in order to keep it away from achieving its true national objectives of construction, development, and progress.

The paper adds that the emphasis by the country's leadership on these noble values and implications reflects its wise awareness and vigilance of the real way to rescue the homeland and safeguard its future.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ concludes by calling on all citizens at this decisive moment of the homeland's history to rally around the wise and national call made by the country's wise leadership in order to adhere to the spirit of one family and to the wall of national unity as a basis for protecting the homeland, so that Bahrain remains an oasis of security and safety and a basis for stability and prosperity.

In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-AYYAM says that the spirit of initiative and work is a basic characteristic of the Bahraini leadership and people. It asserts that the country needs to activate the zeal of faithful men who sanctify work and who want to protect what their hands have built from any tampering.

AL-AYYAM adds: The acts of sabotage were basically meant to undermine Bahrain's distinguished status, which is the primary preoccupation of those behind these subversive operations, as well as to penetrate deep inside an individual to frustrate him and foil his aspirations. These circles want to take advantage of the individual and prompt him to carry out destruction and acts of sabotage, and they also want to turn him against the wishes of his community.

The paper asserts that the development plans that Bahrain is currently implementing need everyone's support and require everyone to close ranks to promote them and push them forward in our interest and in the interests of our sons and our future generations.

AL-AYYAM says that this homeland's positive aspects are large and numerous, and they will not be obliterated by subversive efforts, nor will they be tarnished by tendentious propaganda from abroad. This is so because work and achievement are embodied on the ground and the constant efforts of our government and our people.

Kuwait**Kuwaiti Leadership Averts 'Major Crisis With Saudi Arabia'***JN0102101096 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English
24 Jan 96 pp 1, 6*

[Article by Hamid Buyabis: "Saudis Sour on Reprint"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Jan 23 — Highly informed sources said that the Kuwaiti leadership has succeeded in averting a major crisis with Saudi Arabia over a translated press report on the Saudi internal affairs.

The sources said that one of the reasons for the visit by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad to Saudi Arabia three days ago, was the translated report which leaked out from the National Assembly.

The report was published in a London newspaper at the end of November last year. It was translated and printed on official letterheads of the foreign relations committee of the Assembly.

The sources said that the translation of the report angered the Saudi authorities, especially the large number of copies of the translation that were printed. Saudi Second Deputy Premier and Defence Minister Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz sent a letter in this connection to HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

As a result, the Council of Ministers discussed the issue for one hour and the Cabinet members assigned the Prime Minister to discuss the matter with the speaker of the National Assembly Ahmad al-Sa'dun.

The Cabinet also decided to advance an already scheduled visit by Shaykh Sabah to Saudi Arabia in order to inquire about the health condition of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz and discuss the demarcation of borders between the two countries.

During the visit which concluded yesterday, Shaykh Sabah explained the implications of the incident and reaffirmed Kuwait's gratitude for the major role Saudi Arabia played in leading the international coalition to liberate Kuwait. Shaykh Sabah informed the Saudi leaders that all sections of the Kuwaiti people feel indebted to the Saudi stand.

The sources added that the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers expressed anger over the behaviour of the National Assembly and pointed out similar practices by a number of MPs who signed a memorandum to the Amir of Bahrain regarding the ongoing incidents there. The Council of Ministers considered the memorandum an act of interference in the internal affairs of Bahrain.

The council also called for putting an end to such practices which may spoil strong relations with sisterly countries, especially with Saudi Arabia.

Kuwaiti Paper Calls CDLR 'Political,' Not Islamic
*96P50041 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 9 Jan 96
p 32*

[Commentary by Ahmad Ibrahim al-Hilal]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last Friday, 5 January 1996, press agencies released the following news item: "A spokesperson for the British Home Office announced the night before last that his country has ordered the prominent Saudi opposition figure Muhammad al-Mas'ari to leave British soil since he has been granted refuge in the Caribbean island of Dominica. Mas'ari, however, who heads a grouping known by the name "The Committee for Defense of Legitimate Rights," said that he will appeal the decision before the British courts on several grounds, among them being his inability to practice required Islamic rituals on the island. He added that, to his knowledge, there are no Muslim inhabitants on the island, which makes it impossible for him to practice his religious duties.. "Maybe it is a nice place to spend a vacation, but not to live." (end of news item.)

What we know of Muhammad al-Mas'ari is his claim that he is one of the bearers of the banner calling to Islam who have dedicated themselves to spreading Islam and defending it by all that is dear to them. This is what modern mouthpieces of groups in Islamic garb try to propagate and spread. He claims that he became a refugee for the sake of an Islam that is not being applied in the land of Islam, an Islam that is in need of new caliphs to lead it, an Islam that needs to be spread anew since the mosques have disappeared from the land of Islam and the voice of those calling to prayer have been silenced.

This man's claims, as the claims before him, are refuted upon initial examination. He does not wish to go to that island because of the absence of Muslims there, because that would keep him from performing the Islamic rites incumbent upon him. But we wonder who is going to stop him? Who will prevent him from spreading Islam in a non-Islamic country? Is not this a golden opportunity to convert non-Muslims to your Islam? Or is spreading Islam forbidden except in the Islamic countries and among other Muslims?

These claims and innumerable others are what I wish to refute. But where are those who note and realize that these groupings are nothing but political parties having no relation to the Islam that we know and according to which we were reared? Their aim is to rule and control. May God have mercy on them and show them the right way. Amen.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Crown Prince 'Abdallah

LD0102070196 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
2325 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 31 Jan — At al-Yamamah Palace this afternoon, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-

al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince, first deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard. [passage omitted]

Saddam Reportedly Closes 4 Air Bases in Karkuk
NC3101155696 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi opposition sources have revealed that tyrant Saddam decided to close four air bases in the northern city of Karkuk, for civilian and military flights. The sources emphasized that the decision follows the desertion of an Iraqi pilot by helicopter from Karkuk military airport. The pilot joined the opposition in the liberated areas in northern Iraq.

The same sources added that the four bases are al-Hurriyah, (?Kaywan), Zayd, and Karkuk al-Qadimah. All the aircraft that were present in these bases have been transferred to other cities in the central zone.

Iraqi Ports Reportedly Ready To Receive 'Giant' Merchant Ships

JN3101211096 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq's ports have completed their preparations to receive giant merchant ships of all capacities.

This was announced in a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY [INA] by Dr. Hasan Fulayyih al-Ma'ini, director general of the State Enterprise for Iraqi Ports, who said that Iraqi technical cadres at the ports of Umm Qasr and Khawr al-Zubayr have completed preparations to operate 25 jetties for simultaneous loading and unloading and for various ships with capacities of up to 35,000 tonnes.

In his statement to INA, the director general of the State Enterprise for Iraqi Ports added: The Iraqi cadres have restored all the electronic navigation systems and equipment, the naval control equipment, and the electro-mechanical unit of the Umm Qasr and Khawr al-Zubayr ports' jetties. These ports are capable of unloading millions of tonnes per year.

The director general noted that other operation requirements have been completed, such as hydraulic and mechanical cranes, tugboats, communications equipment, and the installation of navigation markers inside and outside Iraq's territorial waters.

Al-Ma'ini said: Iraq's ports and their technical cadres are prepared to service oil tankers and ships if the pumping of oil is resumed via our Arabian Gulf ports.

Scientist Comments on Iraq's, Iran's Nuclear Programs

MM3101153496 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 28 Jan-3 Feb 96 pp22, 24

[Interview with Iraqi nuclear scientist Dr. Husayn al-Shahristani, "now resident in Tehran," by Ghalib Darwish; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Darwish] Can you talk to us about the Iraqi nuclear program since its beginning, particularly as you were one of the founders of the atomic energy sphere in Iraq?

[Al-Shahristani] Iraq began to develop relatively energetic nuclear activity in the field of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in the early seventies. At the time, there was a generation of Iraqis having training and specialization in this field. But when Saddam came to power as president of the Republic in July 1979, he decided to transfer this peaceful activity in the field of nuclear energy to the military field. He ordered that all the scientific capabilities and laboratories available in Iraq be concentrated on the production of nuclear bombs. Thereupon, I refused to participate in such a program and I was arrested in December 1979. At the time, I occupied the post of adviser on the affairs of the Iraqi nuclear committee. I am proud to say that I did not participate in the development of the Iraqi nuclear program for military uses, despite the fact that I was one of the founders of the Iraqi nuclear energy field.

Iraq mobilized all its capabilities for the production of the atomic bomb with large-scale cooperation from Western companies, which helped Iraq with their efforts and their scientific expertise and cooperated with it in various fields. Through this cooperation and help, Iraq succeeded in setting up installations capable of enriching uranium, which is the first stage in the process of the production of atomic bombs. Iraq also succeeded in acquiring scores of centrifuges capable of enriching uranium in addition to installations capable of enriching uranium by the method of electromagnetic separation as well as by chemical processes. The Iraqi program was getting close to achieving 93% enriched uranium 235, which is the primary material in the production of atomic bombs.

At the same time, there were large military installations working on the development of the detonation equipment necessary for the detonation of nuclear weapons. There were also special and complex designs which must be taken into consideration in the production of nuclear bombs, which in turn require detonators to detonate the bombs at the right time and the right place and prevent the occurrence of any trouble or error. Iraq

succeeded with the help of the Western companies in getting close to the production of the atomic bomb prior to its invasion of Kuwait.

[Darwish] What has been the fate of the atomic scientists?

[Al-Shahristani] Those Iraqi scientists who refused to participate in the nuclear program for the use of nuclear energy for military purposes were arrested from the first day. I, too, was arrested and placed in solitary confinement. As to the others who decided to stay in Iraq, they cooperated with the regime in the eighties. Following the Kuwait war and the destruction of Iraq's military capability, the destruction of whatever remained of Iraqi [nuclear] installations, and the seizure of the charts and designs pertaining to the Iraqi nuclear program, a number of scientists tried to dissociate themselves from Iraq's activities. Some of these scientists were subjected to assassination attempts, as has happened to one of the Iraqi nuclear scientists in Jordan. Other scientists emigrated to the United States. Others left their work with the energy committee to work in other fields such as free trade. However, the basic elite group of scientists which worked on the nuclear program is still there.

[Darwish] At the beginning of the eighties some of the Iraqi nuclear installations were bombed by the Israelis, and some were destroyed by the Western alliance aircraft. What effect did all this have on the progress of the Iraqi nuclear program?

[Al-Shahristani] The Iraqi installation that was bombed in 1981 was a nuclear research installation. That reactor was not designed for military uses or for the development of nuclear weapons. Its importance lay in the fact that the fuel necessary for the operation of the reactor was stored in it. This fuel was 93% enriched uranium, which is the same uranium needed for the production of nuclear bombs after some preparation and modification.

The Israeli bombing succeeded in destroying the reactor, but not the fuel, which remained in Saddam's hands. Naturally, the fuel was not in sufficient quantities at the time for the production of one single nuclear bomb. But Saddam managed to utilize this fuel at the beginning of the eighties in the later development of nuclear weapons. This was achieved through cooperation with Western companies which developed over 15 major nuclear installations in Iraq, each bigger than the reactor that was destroyed in the bombing. Iraq succeeded in transforming these installations into uranium enrichment plants using centrifugal, electromagnetic, or laser methods.

[Darwish] Do you think that the Arab countries are capable of producing nuclear power on a par with Israeli nuclear power?

[Al-Shahristani] In the light of my knowledge of the nuclear installations in the Arab homeland, I doubt that any Arab country is at present in a position to embark on a large-scale nuclear program as Iraq did in the eighties.

Despite the fact that the Arab homeland contains a huge number of experts and technical capabilities that would enable it to do so, I cannot see any unified [Arab] political will at present to enter into an arms race with Israel. Personally, I believe that the time is no longer favorable for the development of such capabilities, taking into consideration the changes in the international order and the American domination. It would be wiser to direct Arab efforts toward the disarmament of Israel in the region instead of thinking of producing nuclear weapons.

[Darwish] What about the biological weapons Iraq used to produce?

[Al-Shahristani] The biological and chemical weapons installations were nothing compared to the nuclear installations which Iraq was eager to develop. But Saddam was obsessed with chemical and biological weapons. I recall that when I was in prison, they used to test these weapons on the bodies of prisoners while they were still alive. We and the world have come to learn, following the reports published by the international committee entrusted with the task of monitoring and destroying Iraq's mass-destruction weapons, that thousands of biological and chemical warheads capable of poisoning the peoples of the Middle East many times over were seized.

I have opposed and still strongly oppose the development of any mass-destruction weapons be they nuclear or biological. I call upon the international will to put an end to the production of any weapons that expose the lives of the peoples to mass destruction. Saddam has tested his germ weapons on the Iraqi people and did not hesitate to test his biological weapons on Iraqi prisoners.

[Darwish] How do you evaluate Iran's nuclear activity?

[Al-Shahristani] As a result of my observations and my visits to a number of scientific centers and nuclear installations in Iran, I have not, in fact, observed the existence of any active Iranian nuclear program, not even up to 10 percent compared to the Iraqi program.

My evaluation of Iranian nuclear capabilities is that they are in need of scientific expertise, equipment, and nuclear installations many times greater than they have at present. Furthermore, an Iranian nuclear program demands a huge budget. Saddam spent over \$10 billion on the nuclear program in the eighties. The Iranian economy does not permit the spending of such a

sum or even one-tenth of it at present. Besides, I do not think that Iran is seriously contemplating the development of nuclear weapons at present and under the new international conditions. Even if it wished to develop such weapons, its technical human capabilities, installations, and budget do not permit it to do so.

The Western media campaigns which have participated in exaggerating Iranian nuclear activity are in my opinion based on a lack of knowledge of Iran's nuclear capabilities.

[Darwish] But Iran has concluded a contract with Russia for the construction of a nuclear reactor at Bushehr.

[Al-Shahristani] True. There was a contract for the construction of a nuclear reactor for the production of electricity at Bushehr with Germany during the days of the shah. About 80 percent of this reactor's structural installations and 25 percent of its technical installations were completed. But work on the project stopped after Germany refused to continue with it following the Iranian revolution at a time when expenditure on it had exceeded \$1 billion. (The Bushehr reactor was designed to have a production capacity of 1200 Megawatts). When Iran decided to continue with the project, it sought the help of Russian scientists. The contract signed a few months ago between Iran and Russia concerns the completion of the construction of this reactor, which cannot provide Iran with any military nuclear capabilities, because it is designed for the production of electric power.

[Darwish] If you were asked to help some Arab countries to set up nuclear installations for peaceful uses, would you agree to do so?

[Al-Shahristani] I would be honored to work in any Arab country in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy be it with Arab universities or with Arab nuclear research centers.

[Darwish] You were close to Saddam Husayn during your work as adviser at the Iraqi nuclear committee. How would you analyze his personality?

[Al-Shahristani] When I was in detention, and following my torture in my solitary confinement cell, Saddam Husayn's brother, Barzan al-Tikriti, who was intelligence chief at the time, came to me and literally told me: We want you to cooperate with us in the nuclear energy committee and we will release you. That was in the summer of 1980 prior to the flareup of the war between Iraq and Iran. He proposed to me the idea of the development of a military nuclear weapon. He literally told me: We want a strong hand to recarve the map of the Middle East. That was Saddam's line of thinking. All the events that followed pointed to the dreams of ex-

pansion and domination which this sick man entertains. Thus he committed aggression against Iran and then invaded Kuwait. These acts of aggression constitute only part of Saddam's abnormal ambition to build a Saddamite empire compatible with his aggressive dreams.

I have met Saddam on several occasions when I was advisor to the Iraqi nuclear committee prior to my arrest. He is of a moderate intelligence and lives through an inflated ego and dreams of imposing his will and domination on everything. He does not tolerate any opinion or any argument from anyone and tries to let one know that he is the number one and that no one is above him. This sense of hollow greatness or rather inflated ego has prompted his involvement in matters he is completely ignorant of. For example, he used to settle dialogues on nuclear issues of which he knew nothing by a mere scribble of a pen or a funny spontaneous decision on most occasions.

[Darwish] What are the academic issues that preoccupy the attention of Dr. al-Shahristani in our contemporary world?

[Al-Shahristani] Most of my time is devoted to helping the refugees in their camps inside Iraq particularly in the al-Ahwar area, and to following up human rights violations in Iraq and the sending of reports to the international organizations, while at the same time I teach nuclear sciences to the students of higher studies at Tehran University.

I have met with the former UN secretary general and talked to him about the deteriorating human rights conditions inside Iraq. I am in constant touch with the UN rapporteur on human rights whom I still continue to provide with information about the latest predictions pertaining to Iraq. Quite often, he uses these reports because they are based on information received from inside Iraq. I also have relations with Amnesty International and several other organizations concerned with the defense of human rights in Iraq.

In this respect, I wish to point out that the Iraqi people have been and continue to be the major victim of the policy and crimes of Saddam Husayn. The Iraqi people have paid the price before and after the [Gulf] war. Today, the Iraqi people look to their Arab brethren to help them rid themselves of Saddam who has annihilated a basic part of the Arab nation and destroyed the most ancient civilization that existed since the days of Ibrahim al-Khalil [Abraham].

BAGHDAD OBSERVER To Be Published Weekly

JN3101195396 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
31 Jan 96 p 29

[Report by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Majid in Baghdad]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Iraq has continued to take steps to fight inflation. Baghdad and the United Nations are about to start talks on the formula for selling oil for food and medicine. Amid these developments, the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Information decided that the daily BAGHDAD OBSERVER will be published on a weekly basis.

The step was taken because of the shortage of paper and other printing needs caused by the international embargo. This is the first time the Ministry of Culture and Information made such a decision about a daily newspaper.

Journalists, surprised by the move, say Baghdad has lost its voice in the foreign arena, which is full of media tools. The newspaper was launched in 1959 under the name IRAQ TIMES. The journalists add that the decision to make it a weekly was made two weeks after the change at the Ministry of Culture and Information. President Saddam Husayn issued a decree relieving former Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi and appointing 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Army, Security Forces Clash With People in South

LD0102112396 Tehran IRIB Television First Program
Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports received from the southern region of Iraq indicate that last week the people clashed with Iraqi Army and security forces in the Missan Province. In the course of these clashes, tens of people were killed or injured.

News agencies also quote the Iraqi passengers who have arrived in Jordan from Iraq during the past two days as saying: The Iraqi Army troops attacked the combative people in the Adiyah region. Under the pretext of

attacking the combatants, the Iraqi Armed Forces killed a number of women and children.

PUK's Talabani on Peace, Economy in Kurdistan

NC3101162696 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], has stressed the importance of peace and the need to strengthen it in Kurdistan in general, and in Irbil in particular. He reiterated the PUK's determination to rebuke the violators of the existing regulations and laws in the region, regardless of their party and government positions.

In remarks during his meeting with a delegation of engineers, lawyers, and intellectuals in Irbil yesterday evening, the brother secretary general added: We insist on regulating the customs duty so that we can ensure the wages of employees, workers, and the needy in the region.

His excellency said that the Kurdistan Democratic Party controls about 70 percent of the region's revenues, and yet it has not spent one tenth of these revenues for the reconstruction of (Bahdinan).

Touching on the economic situation in the region, Talabani said that the 'Aflaqite regime in Baghdad has destroyed the economic infrastructure of Kurdistan and Iraq.

Correction to Swiss Firm Handled Nuclear Equipment

MM2601122496

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Swiss Firm Handled Nuclear Equipment Now 'Now Missing' in Iraq," published in the 26 January Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 17, column one, paragraph seven, sentence three, make read: ...frequently in the eighties, and in the early nineties he was convicted... (substituting "nineties" for "eighties")

Peres Said Awaiting Syrian, U.S. Reply Before Deciding on Elections*TA3101170296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is awaiting replies from Syria and the United States before he makes his final decision on whether to advance the elections. This has been learned by our Knesset correspondent Yo'el Nir. Among other things, Mr. Peres wants an answer to the question whether a meeting with Syrian President al-Asad will be possible, despite the fact that the Maryland talks have made slow progress. The prime minister wants the answers by 15 February, which is the last day for him to legally make an announcement on advancing the elections.

Earlier today, on his way to London, Peres said that several issues regarding normalization and economics have been concluded with the Syrians in Maryland, and that the discussions on security arrangements are on the right track, though nothing has been concluded yet. According to him, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will have to come to the Middle East many more times to mediate between Israel and Syria.

Mr. Peres reported that the car bomb that exploded in Lebanon two days ago, without causing damage, contained 700 kg of explosives. He stressed that this was a major failure for Hizballah.

[In a recorded passage in the lead-in to the 1600 GMT newscast, Prime Minister Peres comments on the Janin stabbing death of an Israeli soldier, saying: "This was a very grave attack. We know there are isolated Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] squads in the region. I hope that, eventually, we will get them all. This was an act of a single assailant. We have him, and we will examine the circumstances that allowed the murder. If we have to draw conclusions, we will."]

Peres Comments on Progress of Syria Talks, Elections*TA3101195296 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[Political correspondent Nisim Mish'al video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Mish'al] Israel and Syria have already started discussing formulas for the economic issues that have cropped up in the negotiations. This was disclosed today by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. The prime minister said that a great deal of progress has been made at the Wye Plantation talks. Arriving in London for a visit, Prime Minister Peres said that within a month he would decide whether or not to

hold early elections. Shlomi Eldar, our correspondent in London reports:

[Begin recording] [Eldar] Shim'on Peres stopped in London on his way to the economic conference in Davos, Switzerland. During the flight, Peres recalled some private memories of Lake Tiberias.

[Peres] I spent my honeymoon in a bungalow between two eucalyptus trees on the banks of the Jordan River, and I can tell you that my memories of this combination are exceptional.

[Eldar] The media correspondents, however, were more interested in the elections issue and their bearing on the negotiations. I asked the prime minister when he would decide whether or not to hold early elections?

[Peres] I assume that I will reach my decision this month, during February. Even if we hold early elections, the negotiations will continue before as well as after the balloting. And even if the elections are held as scheduled, there is no guarantee that we will conclude the negotiations before then. Therefore, absolutely no linkage should be made between the election process and the negotiations.

[Eldar] Mr. Peres, are you now saying that significant progress has been made at the Wye Plantation talks?

[Peres] I would describe the latest round of talks as good. We reached some understandings and formulations. We opened up some issues. All of the above. This was a very constructive round of talks.

[Eldar] When you talk about formulas, do you mean that the negotiators actually discussed practicalities?

[Peres] With regard to several issues in the economic field and with regard to normalization, the answer is yes. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Mish'al] The progress in the talks referred to by Prime Minister Peres pertains to an agreement in principle reached with the Syrians on the issues that will be covered in the framework of normalization. In other words, verbal agreement has been reached on the issues relating to the nature of peace that the parties will discuss later on. The Syrians have stipulated that all the characteristics of normalization posited by Israel in the talks, such as diplomatic relations, tourism, transportation, economic ties, telephone links, and so forth, would be discussed — in accordance with Syria's demand — within the framework of only three categories: Opening embassies, opening borders, and lifting the Arab boycott. It was also agreed that the talks between the parties would continue in their present format within the framework of a joint discussion group.

It remains unclear, however, whether these talks will take place in Washington.

As for the security arrangements, some movement was noted and both parties clarified their positions; however, no progress was made and the gaps in this issue remain wide. A senior political source told us this evening that small shreds of progress are gradually being woven together in the talks with the Syrians. The negotiations are being filled with more and more content.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher will arrive in Israel on 4 February and meet with the political leadership in Jerusalem the next day. On 5 February, he will leave for Damascus in order to hold talks with President al-Asad. There, Christopher will focus on the security arrangements.

In conclusion, it should be emphasized that no real breakthrough should be expected during Christopher's coming tour of the region. It is just another visit which will be followed by many more.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 31 January reports that "Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said there was no longer any reason for Israel and Syria to be in a state of war. Speaking to both houses of Parliament in London, Peres said that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has shown a degree of flexibility in the negotiations and Israel appreciates this. We are hearing less no's from Damascus, but this is still not enough. Peres asserted that the problem now was with the speed of the negotiations. I will be fair, Peres stressed, and not blame Syria for this, because part of the problem results from the complexity of the issues. For example, there is the issue of water, of which neither Syria nor Israel have enough. This is a matter of life and death for both countries."]

Peres Views Elections, Peace Negotiations

MS0102104096 London BBC Television Network in English 2230 GMT 31 Jan 96

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Peter Snow in London on 31 January; from the "Newsnight" program — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Snow] Well earlier this evening I spoke to Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, and I asked him how tempted he was to hold early elections in Israeli?

[Peres] If at all I would prefer to have them on time, on October the 29th, but there are some problems, you know it's a very complicated situation. The night Prime Minister Rabin was assassinated, me being on his side, five minutes before it, I didn't know this may happen, and this may happen to me, all of a sudden

being in charge of a nation, divided, tense, disorganised. And though I thought that a bullet should not kill a democracy, I thought also to myself that the bullet should not become a mandate to run the country. So the first few months I thought it was my task to reduce the temperature, to [word indistinct] the forces, to make normalcy come back home, but in fact in order to run a country you have to have a fresh mandate, so I shall consider very carefully what will be the best time, I have time to consider and I want to do it in a very considered manner.

[Snow] Do you recognize that if you do hold early elections some of your opponents will say, there is old Shim'on Peres cashing in on the wave of sympathy for labor after Rabin's assassination to try and go to the country early?

[Peres] Well an indulgent Peres now has a new light. [sentence as heard] Many of the things that people thought, that this is visionary, impossible like the [word indistinct] option, like peace with the PLO. Today everybody recognizes that it was the right move, and what looked as highly visionary and almost impossible became a possibility.

[Snow] Can you go ahead with serious peace negotiations through the spring and summer with Syria and hold elections early in the spring?

[Peres] The elections in any way can be an interruption to peace negotiations.

[Snow] So you can do the two together, you can hold them in parallel?

[Peres] I mean it's a possibility. If I would have my preference, clearly I would like to have the elections on October the 29th and negotiate peace.

[Snow] Do you get the same rather grim early reports of the results of the talks in America between Israel and Syria that are reaching us through the news agencies tonight?

[Peres] No not at all. I think the two meetings at the [word indistinct] were really success. I think Syria were in several ways forthcoming, the discussions were informal, and some serious [word indistinct] was done, still the agenda is very heavy and loaded with real issues, but on some points we reached an agreement whether in writing or in theory, like for example that we have to turn on the agreement with Syria into an overall, a comprehensive agreement in the whole region, to bring actually an end to the war in the middle east.

[Snow] But Syrian state radio is saying this evening. Israel no longer — we no longer believe that the

discussions of America will produce results and they blame the Israeli's for rejecting total withdrawal on the Golan. Now are you prepared or are you not prepared to consider complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights?

[Peres] I am ready to consider everything, but I am not ready to answer your question right now.

[Snow] Including total withdrawal?

[Peres] No I will know that we shall have to make some territorial sacrifices, but I wouldn't like to do it ahead of time, which is now. But we know the cost of peace, we know it's an expensive cost, we know it has a territorial obligation, and we are ready to meet it, but I wouldn't like now to say exactly what will be the frontiers.

[Snow] We have been watching tonight Prime Minister, people on the Golan Heights, settlers on the Golan Heights, who are desperately concerned about what will happen if there is peace with Syria. How difficult is it going to be to persuade them that even partial withdrawal will guarantee Israel's security?

[Peres] It will be very difficult to convince them, I take it into consideration. They really sacrifice their life on the Golan Heights, but I told them on many occasion you were serving not just the security of Israel, you were also serving the peace between us and Syrians, so it has different consequences. But let me say one thing, when we started [word indistinct] agreement number one, I am not sure at all that the majority of the Israeli people supported us, but now look at things as they are today, even the Likud is beginning to agree to [words indistinct] agreement. When you have to change you must take a certain risk, because most people prefer to remember rather than to think.

[Snow] But what do you say to people like Michael Landsberg or your own national executive — labour executive who is telling us today from his Kibbutz or town on the Golan Heights, is saying to us that if labour goes ahead and withdraws from the Golan Heights it will be for them a — it will cause a split in the party and will be an ideological disaster?

[Peres] Well I can understand his view, I wouldn't agree with his conclusions. I think we shall have a majority, and then we have said that if we shall reach an agreement with the Syrians that calls for a major territorial change — and that may be the case, we shall have a referendum.

[Snow] Do you acknowledge that you as a recognized dove inside Israel may have more trouble in persuading the Israeli people to make the necessary concessions for peace than your predecessor Yitzhaq Rabin, who was

seen as a war hero, essentially a tough guy who would know what concessions to make with safety?

[Peres] I think that I am coming to the peace process with a great deal of credit, because many things that I have said beforehand and looked visionary, unacceptable and impossible became an accepted reality, and I think this may help a great deal

Peres Aide, Labor's Zvili: Peres Undecided on Election Date

TA3101142996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1400 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Aliza Goren, the prime minister's media adviser, has said that Mr. Peres has not yet made a decision about advancing the elections, and that the issue will be discussed in February.

Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili also said, after talking to the prime minister's entourage in London, that Mr. Peres has not yet decided whether elections should be moved forward. Zvili told our party affairs correspondent Yaron Degel that the prime minister intends to make a decision next month, which is what he said in London.

Israeli Parties To Hold Informal Contacts on Possible Election Date

TA0102055096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0500 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Coalition Chairman Ra'anan Kohen has announced that he will begin contacts with other party leaders in the Knesset to discuss a date for early elections. Kohen said this is his own private initiative. He said he is convinced that the elections must be brought forward because after primaries in the Labor Party, it will be difficult to continue business as usual in the Knesset.

When the prime minister returns from abroad, Labor and the Likud are to hold informal contacts on discussing possible dates for the elections. Labor sources say the Likud would not agree to holding a poll as early as mid-May.

Ethiopian Immigrant Voting Trends, Leadership in Israel Profiled

TA3101160296 Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON (DAVAR SHENI supplement) in Hebrew 31 Jan 96 pp 2, 3

[Article by Dani Ababa: "Blood Amounts to Votes"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Ethiopian blood donations affair is liable to have an adverse effect on the Labor Party's prospects in the coming elections. Although

Ethiopian community members attribute what they term the despicable deed to the governments that have ruled the country over the past eight years, and not just the Labor government, they still think they will be more cautious when they cast their votes this time.

"We should not be taken for granted by any party, either the Likud or Labor. We will vote for the party that will give us a chance to be human beings in this country," says Shlomo Mola, one of the community's more prominent young leaders. Mola, who proclaims solidarity with Labor, says he would like to see members of his community become active in every sphere of public life, including politics. "We must cast off the stigma of innocence and prove that we are capable of being involved in every sphere, and that we know how to elect and be elected to the Knesset."

The spiritual leaders of the Ethiopian community are identified with right-wing parties, most notably the Likud. Dr. Mina Tzemah asserts that in 1992, a considerable part of the Ethiopian community voted for the Likud, although it is too soon to predict their voting pattern for 1996: "It is too soon to tell which party most immigrants will vote for, because things change." She adds that "Peres' noble act of apologizing to the Ethiopian community somewhat diminished the serious damage to Labor."

Moshe Batao, 36, one of the community's young leaders, who is affiliated with the Likud, believes that because of the discarded blood donations, most immigrants will not vote for Labor in 1996. "Even if it had been done by the Likud, Labor has continued to lie to us to this very day," he said.

Mola and Batao concur that the older immigrants vote for the Likud out of a sense of obligation to Menahem Begin, who brought them out of Ethiopia. But "for the young generation which has served in the army, which is familiar with the mentality of Israeli society, and some of which have become integrated into that society, Menahem Begin does not exist any more. All that matters is the reality of give and take," Batao says. He estimates that the immigrants will vote for anyone who promotes them and "takes them out of the immigrant absorption quagmire."

Incidentally, Mola and Batao agree on one more thing: They both maintain that Labor should apologize for Golda Me'ir's statement that she did not believe there were black Jews anywhere in the world, and that planning to bring them to Israel was therefore futile. [passage omitted]

All the speakers claim that the Labor Party has neglected the immigrant absorption issues, leaving the heavy

burden to a single man, Ya'ir Tzaban, whom all the community members salute and whose retirement they regret. Batao says Tzaban worked hard, but he did not have the government's backing. "They were all preoccupied with Peres' rhetoric about 'a new Middle East', and they did nothing for immigrant absorption. They will pay for that in 1996," he says.

Nevertheless, Batao is also highly critical of the Likud and its leaders, who "did not give the community and its young leaders enough credit. If the Likud thinks it will get all the Ethiopians' votes in 1996, it is very wrong. Although the Ethiopian votes are worth nearly one and a half Knesset seats, the Likud has not allocated a realistic slot for them in the primaries, which would have motivated masses of them to vote for the Likud."

The only community member up for election at the moment is Adiso Massala, 35, who is running on the national list in the Labor primaries. Massala, who is considered one of the Ethiopian community's most prominent leaders, immigrated to Israel in 1980. He has been a Labor member for about 10 years, and he heads the umbrella organization of Ethiopian immigrants. "I want to rescue my community and invest in them, because we now know that all the politicians we supported had been lying to us. Only by being inside can I influence the progress of Israeli society and of my community," he says. [passage omitted]

Likud Knesset Member [MK] Moshe Qatzav says the bias toward the Ethiopian community dates to the past. Ethiopian immigrants had problems even during Likud government terms, and yet they have mostly voted for the Likud. Qatzav adds: I am sorry no Ethiopian immigrant submitted his candidacy for the Likud primaries. [passage omitted]

MK Ra'anan Kohen, head of the Labor Party's elections branch, says that "if the elections are held in the next few months, Labor will lose the Ethiopian vote, because they may vote out of anger and a sense of slight." [passage omitted]

Minister Reiterates Denial of Talks on Future of Jerusalem

TA0102095996 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 1 Feb 96 p 2

[Report by Liat Collins]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government is not conducting any negotiations on the future of Jerusalem, Public Security Minister Moshe Shahal told the Knesset plenum yesterday.

Shahal spoke on the subject twice, answering a parliamentary question by Yehoshu'a Matza (Likud), and five

motions to the agenda by MKs [Knesset members] from various parties.

Shahal said he had asked Prime Minister Shim'on Peres about the issue before Peres left for Britain yesterday morning "and received a negative answer."

Matza heckled Shahal accusing him of giving a false response, misleading the public and avoiding the truth. Matza repeatedly asked Shahal to clarify whether any negotiations at all are being carried out in Europe on Jerusalem's status since Shahal's answers were confined to stressing that the government is not negotiating on the subject.

Matza charged that negotiations are being carried out by academics, as they were when the groundwork was laid for the Oslo accords.

He based his claim on press reports and statements by Palestinian officials Faysal al-Husayni and Ziyad Abu-Zayyad.

Shahal said even raising doubts about Jerusalem's future invites pressure on Israel.

"Neither Faysal al-Husayni nor Ziyad Abu-Zayyad has the power to say that negotiations are being conducted, when it is officially stated from the Knesset plenum that the government is not conducting any negotiations," Shahal said.

Palestinian Spy for Iran Captured by Shin Bet, Identified

TA3101132696 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1300 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Shin Bet has exposed a spy who has been relaying information to Iran on security installations in Israel. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the spy, Muhammad Rujub Salama Muhammad, aged 44, a Palestinian from the township of Bayt Jala near Bethlehem, holds a doctorate in philosophy from Beirut University. He previously resided in Lebanon, Syria, and most recently in Jordan.

During his interrogation, he admitted that a year ago he was drafted into Iranian intelligence by Abu-Muhammad, a staffer at the Iranian Embassy in Amman, and agreed to collect information in Israel and Jordan. Before he was arrested, the spy collected maps of Israel, marked security sites and government offices, and relayed the information to his handler. He also took pictures of sites in Israel. His interrogation is continuing.

Iranian Spy in Israel Expelled to Jordan

TA0102091796 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0900 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Muhammad Salama, arrested by the Shin Bet for being an Iranian spy, was expelled to Jordan today. Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that defense elements took the spy from the Russian Compound in Jerusalem to the Allenby Bridge, where he crossed into Jordan a short time ago. The spy, who has a Ph.D. and lived in Bayt Jala, was arrested after transferring to Iran photographs and maps of army bases in Israel.

Israeli Authorities Stop Entry of Palestinian Policemen From Libya Into PA

TA0102093996 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0900 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has stopped the entry of Palestinian policemen from Libya into the Palestinian Authority [PA] via the Rafah crossing. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the move was taken after three Fatah fugitives involved in attacks against Israel disguised themselves as policemen and infiltrated into the Gaza Strip. One was captured, but the other two managed to escape. Brigadier General Herzl Getz, head of Israel's liaison committee, is holding ongoing contacts with Gen. Ziyad al-'Atrash, his Palestinian counterpart, and the Palestinian police are searching for the two. So far, several policemen have entered the Gaza Strip from Egypt, and 180 others are still waiting on the Egyptian side of Rafah.

Israel's Memad, NRP Leaders in Contact on Possible 'Front'

TA3101151996 *Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew*
31 Jan 96 p A10

[Report by Shahar Ilan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Memad leader, Rabbi Yehuda 'Amital, said yesterday that he supports granting the right of civil marriage to the 30,000 new immigrants from the CIS who cannot marry according to Jewish halakah. "This is a pragmatic solution for a humanitarian problem that does not contradict halakah and is preferable to reform marriages," he said. [passage omitted]

'Amital was speaking at a meeting of Memad branch heads and activists in Giv'at Shmu'el. According to him, he feels "persecuted by the religious public, mainly the National Religious Party [NRP] supporters" because he believes that the halakah should not be politicized. NRP supporters, he said, have been assuming extremist stands

reminiscent of very Orthodox communities. 'Amital said he feels this sector of the public feels "violent rage" against him.

Yehuda Ben-Me'ir, Memad activist and former NRP Knesset member, said that Memad does not rule out the establishment of a Palestinian state. According to him, the movement has not yet made a stand for or against a state, but it is certain that a Palestinian entity should be founded and live in peace alongside Israel. Ben-Me'ir asserted that it should be clear that the establishment of a Palestinian state is not violating biblical law nor is it blasphemy. [passage omitted]

In his speech, Rabbi 'Amital revealed that he has been holding contacts with NRP Chairman Zvulun Hammer in an attempt to moderate remarks the two parties make. It seems, however, that the contacts have a further aim. Speaking at an NRP Knesset faction meeting yesterday, Hammer rejected the possibility of forming a religious front with the ultra-Orthodox parties or a front of all right-wing parties, saying he suggests that a third option be paid attention to — a religious-Zionist front. [passage omitted]

Speculation Continues About Jordanian Cabinet Reshuffle

JN0102090096 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
1 Feb 96 pp 1, 7

["Special" to the JORDAN TIMES by Nermin Murad]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman — Government and informed sources yesterday sought to scotch the wave of rumours and speculation that swept the capital over the past few days about an imminent Cabinet change to take place today.

"His Majesty the King has asked the prime minister to introduce a major reshuffle in his Cabinet," a well-informed source told the JORDAN TIMES Wednesday [31 January]. "As far as I know, the choice was still in al-Sharif Zayd's hands until two days ago. But I am not aware of anything happening since then."

The speculation about the change, which was also articulated in influential government circles, did in fact go beyond a mere reshuffle, to the extent that the King was believed ready to name a new prime minister and Cabinet on Thursday.

According to the most-talked about scenarios, either former Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i or Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti was being considered for the job of prime minister, while the choice of a new Royal Court Chief appeared to be settled in favour of former Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali.

Other than the confirmation that al-Sharif Zayd had received the King's go-ahead for a major government reshuffle, sources were unable to confirm that the prime minister had moved to make the change or, if not, that he had decided that the King's directives could be better served by another prime minister whose choice had yet to be decided by the King.

According to sources close to al-Sharif Zayd, the premier was still weighing his options before taking concrete steps towards either introducing a reshuffle to his government or bowing out in favour of another candidate.

A number of Cabinet ministers contacted by the JORDAN TIMES over the past two days said that al-Sharif Zayd did not confirm that the King had asked him to reshuffle his Cabinet, but they did not rule out that they may have been kept in the dark by the usually secretive premier.

However, the well informed source who confirmed that al-Sharif Zayd had been mandated by the King to work on a reshuffle also said that the prime minister may take some time in weighing his options before taking a final

decision, which may not come before the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Several factors, sources say, will influence such a decision, including whether the prime minister feels that introducing change to the present Cabinet is what is required by and for the country now, given the fact that the government has completed its official mandate, as stipulated in the King's letter of appointment exactly one year ago.

"The task of this government, as mandated in its letter of appointment, was completed when Parliament approved investment and other laws related to lifting the boycott against Israel and when Jordan signed all its bilateral agreements with Jewish state and presented the budget to Parliament and won its approval," a well-informed source told the JORDAN TIMES.

Other sources, however, argue that the mandate of al-Sharif Zayd's government does or should include the passage in Parliament of the electoral law, a draft of which already has been prepared by the government and is under discussion with parliamentary blocs. Relations with such important Arab countries as Syria and Saudi Arabia are at a too-sensitive-point at this stage also that this particular government should see them through before it leaves office, these sources say. [sentence as published]

"It is true that His Majesty might not see in these latter factors a serious impediment to change should he decide the change is necessary," one of the sources said. "But I think the ball remains in al-Sharif Zayd's court: whether he wants to continue serving as prime minister or not," the source added.

Al-Sharif Zayd, it became apparent from information gathered yesterday, is not preparing to leave office anytime soon, not before the end of Ramadan at any rate, when he is scheduled to accompany the King on his trip to Saudi Arabia towards the end of the Holy Month.

"Al-Sharif Zayd also has a host of other engagements that he intends to fulfill as prime minister," a well-informed government source said. "I expect him to stay at least until the end of Ramadan," the source added without elaboration.

Dr. al-Majali was informally asked yesterday about his possible appointment to the Royal Court Chiefs job. He did not give a definitive answer.

Jordan Signs Oil, Grain, Deals With Iraq, Syria

JN0102130696 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU'
in Arabic 1 Feb 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — This week the Jordanian Government endorsed new deals that will increase the amount of trade between Syria and Iraq at a time when these two countries expressed readiness to supply us with more oil and grain to meet our needs, regardless of the method or date of payment.

Ministry of Industry and Trade sources said that Iraqi trade, industrial, and financial delegations, headed by the Iraqi minister of industry and the Iraqi Central Bank governor, visited Jordan this week. During the visit, it was agreed that Jordan would live up to its commitments stipulated in the trade protocol signed between the two countries last year. According to this protocol, this year Jordan will export to Iraq approximately \$250 million in foodstuffs out of the 1995 trade protocol's account. This will keep the size of Jordanian exports to Iraq within approximately \$500 million per year, just as it was in previous years even though this year's trade protocol reduced the size of Jordanian exports to Iraq by half.

Furthermore, Iraq expressed readiness to increase amounts of oil and petroleum exports to Jordan this year according to Jordan's and the Palestinian National Authority's needs.

Jordan also signed contracts with Syria in return for 10,000 tonnes of Syrian barley. These contracts were signed during a visit by an official Jordanian trade delegation, headed by the Ministry of Supply's secretary general, to Damascus in the middle of this week. Syria expressed its readiness to supply Jordan with all of the grain it needs, regardless of the method of payment and at a price lower than world prices. Through this deal, Jordan saved \$4 million because Syria offered barley at prices lower than world prices—at \$26.50 per tonne. Moreover, Jordan signed a contract to export large amounts of cement worth more than \$20 million.

Jordan's Prince Hasan Leaves for Turkey for Water Talks

JN3101175596 Amman Radio Jordan in English
1700 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan has left for Turkey for talks with President Suleyman Demirel on water issues in the Middle East and prospects of regional cooperation. He will also discuss bilateral relations and ways to boost cooperation between Jordan and Turkey.

His royal highness was accompanied by Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti. The crown prince was

seen off by the prime minister, the Royal Court chief, and other senior officials.

Earlier today, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti met a delegation including Canadian ambassadors appointed to 14 countries in the region, currently holding their annual meeting in Amman.

The minister briefed the diplomats on Jordan's stand on the peace process and means to consolidate democracy in the Kingdom. Discussions also dealt with regional and international issues, as well as the economic and political dimensions of regional security.

Mr. al-Kabariti welcomed France's decision to halt nuclear testing. He said the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty had underlined the need to deal with disarmament issues and make the Middle East a nuclear-free zone.

Jordan's Prince Hasan Comments on Water Talks in Turkey

JN3101215096 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 2100 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan returned to Jordan this evening after a brief visit to the Republic of Turkey to meet with President Suleyman Demirel and senior Turkish officials. The discussions dealt with a number of issues of concern to the two countries, as well as the future of the region, particularly the administration of water resources and regional security.

His highness was received by His Highness Prince Ghazi Bin-Muhammad, his majesty the king's cultural secretary; His Highness Prince 'Ali Bin-Nayif, special secretary of his majesty the king; His Highness Prince Ra'd Bin-Zayd, chief chamberlain; his majesty the king's advisers; the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff; senior officials; and the Turkish ambassador in Amman.

Returning along with his highness the crown prince was Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti.

Our correspondent Yusuf Faraj held the following interview with his highness upon his return:

[Begin recording] [Faraj] What were the chief topics discussed during your visit to Turkey?

[Hasan] Bilateral relations are distinguished. We look forward to President Demirel's visit later this year. I believe that the meeting with the president and foreign minister today was important in terms of clarifying our approach toward regional issues, particularly the water issue. We are following with concern the international dimension and preparations for the water summit that was recommended by the World Bank in the wake

of the Amman economic conference. The [Economic and Social Committee] for Western Asia, ESCWA, also recommended that water-related issues be discussed within the framework of preparations for a meeting that may be the subject of discussion in 1997.

Regarding security issues, there is a clear position on peace and the factors that influence regional stability and boost cooperation among us. I believe that the visit emphasized the strong desire to continue constructive dialogue in the form of roundtable meetings between the two countries' officials. There was a detailed discussion of free trade.

I believe that exchanging visits among representatives of various sectors will flourish with a view to developing the eastern Mediterranean. Turkey has called on Jordan to become an observer in the first phase of talks on cooperation among Black Sea countries.

Many issues were discussed. Praise be to God, it was a nice Ramadan evening. President Demirel hosted an iftar banquet. I believe all the results were good, God willing. Thank you. [end recording]

Jordanian Authorities Silent on Husayn Kamil Hospitalization

*MM0102105496 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
1 Feb 96 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Husayn Kamil Suffering From Nervous Breakdown?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-HAYAH — Official Jordanian sources declined yesterday to confirm or deny reports that General Husayn Kamil, President Sad-

dam Husayn's son-in-law, has been admitted to hospital because of health problems. Informed sources had said that Husayn Kamil, who defected to Jordan on 8 August last year with his brother Saddam and their wives, daughters of the Iraqi president, was suffering from severe abdominal pain, while other sources said that he was suffering from a nervous breakdown.

The sources said that Husayn Kamil, who stayed originally in al-Hashimiyah Palace near Amman, has moved to another residence near the capital and changed his telephone number.

As is known, Jordanian authorities had said that they would not interfere with any decision the former Iraqi official takes regarding departing from or staying in the country, following reports about his intention of leaving Jordan for an unknown destination.

Jordanian Authorities Prevent Hamas' Hamami From Entering

*TA3101145196 Ramallah AL-BILAD in Arabic
30 Jan 96 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-BILAD has learned that the Jordanian security authorities prevented Jamil Hamami, who is close to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], from entering Jordan.

Hamami was invited to participate in a seminar on the results of the Palestinian elections at the Center for Strategic Studies at Jordan University. The seminar was held at the university on the evening of Sunday [28 January].

Lebanon's al-Hariri on Domestic Situation, Syria
NC3101183296 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*
1630 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Chamber of Deputies, by a majority vote, today approved the budget submitted by the government after five days of debate. In today's session, the government responded to some of the queries voiced by the deputies. The last day of the debate was marked by confrontations between some deputies and the government. As a result, Deputy Najah Wakim submitted his resignation from the Chamber of Deputies, which Speaker Nabih Birri rejected, and Justice Minister Bahij Tabbarah walked out of the session. [passage omitted]

In his response, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri discussed the general situation in the country. He pointed out that the positive aspects are the result of cooperation between the Chamber of Deputies and the last two governments. He noted that the attempt to show the country as heading for disaster is both exaggerated and harmful to the country. However, he admitted the existence of some shortcomings, which he said the government is trying to overcome in cooperation with the deputies.

The prime minister underlined the role of the Army, which he said is prepared and ready to liberate the land from Israeli occupation. He also denied that Lebanon is uniting with Syria, noting that economic agreements between the two countries will be made public. He stressed the need to eliminate the traces of the destructive war in Lebanon and to restore life to the country by rebuilding the infrastructure. [passage omitted]

After walking out of the session, Deputy Wakim stated that he had resigned because he is unable to perform his duties at the Chamber of Deputies. He pointed out that according to the bylaws, the resignation is not subject to acceptance or rejection and becomes effective immediately upon notification of the Chamber of Deputies.

Hizballah Berates U.S. Envoy to Lebanon for 'Terrorist' Remarks

NC0102113896 *Paris AFP in English*
1104 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Feb 1 (AFP) — Hizballah on Thursday [1 February] blasted Washington's new envoy to Lebanon for referring to the Iranian-backed group as "terrorists" and urged the Lebanese authorities to refuse his credentials.

Ambassador Richard Jones is expected to take up his post later in February.

On Tuesday Jones was quoted as saying that security had improved in Lebanon since the end of the 1975-1990 civil war but parts of the country were "still outside state control such as the (eastern) al-Biq'a Valley where there are many training camps for terrorist organisations." He named Hizballah as one of these groups.

"This is an aggressive start for a civil servant who must represent his government in a country which has suffered for a long time from American politics," Hizballah said in a statement published by the press.

"If the ambassador considers Hizballah a terrorist group this means that its deputies and the people they represent are also terrorists. This constitutes an insult to the national assembly (parliament) and the people," Hizballah said. "If the statements made (by Jones) will be at the center of the speech he will deliver when he presents his credentials, the Lebanese authorities must strongly protest and refuse to accept such documents," Hizballah added.

The Shiite Moslem Hizballah spearheads anti-Israeli attacks in south Lebanon. It has eight deputies in the 128-seat parliament.

The United States has repeatedly urged the Lebanese Government to rein in Hizballah and Israel has said disbanding the guerrillas is a condition for peace. The United States maintains a travel ban on Lebanon for security reasons since 1985, when Shiite Moslem fundamentalists abducted a TWA plane and killed a passenger on board. Hizballah denied any responsibility.

Clashes 'Raging' Between 'Resistance,' Israeli, SLA Troops in Lebanon

NC0102084496 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic*
0815 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent in the south reported a short while ago that fierce clashes are raging between the Resistance forces and the men guarding the al-Suwayda' position, which belongs to the Israeli forces and the South Lebanese Army.

Israeli Helicopters Strafe Areas in South Lebanon

NC3101180696 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*
1630 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Two enemy Cobra helicopters at 1615 this afternoon overflew the villages that run parallel to the occupied security zone in the central sector. They strafed the ridges of Yatar, Sribbin, and Haddatha with large-caliber machine guns, drawing ground fire from the resistance positions. Sam-7 antiaircraft missiles were fired at them.

Islamic Resistance Attacks SLA Position in Lebanon
NC3101202696 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
2000 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In retaliation for continued Israeli attacks on defenseless villages and towns in the

south, the Islamic Resistance said one of its groups attacked a Lahdist [South Lebanese Army] position in Taw'amat Niha with machine guns and rockets this evening. The position received direct hits.

Syria's Vice President Says Peres 'Rosy' Statements Not Enough

JN3101130096 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0800 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 31 Jan (WAKH) — Syrian Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah said Syria will not accept a peace that encroaches upon Syrian sovereignty. Any settlement with Israel must guarantee that Syria exercises full sovereignty over the Golan, he said. In a statement published in today's issue of the Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, Mashariqah said there will be no peace unless Syria and Lebanon regain all of their territory and all traces of Israeli aggression are removed, such as settlements, settlers, warning stations, or anything that violates Syria's full sovereignty on its national soil.

The Syrian vice president defined Syria's view of a just peace. He said that such a peace requires Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines, reaching an agreement on equal [mutasawiah] and equitable [mutakafi'ah] security arrangements that do not encroach on Syrian sovereignty, eliminating all traces of Israeli aggression in Lebanon, and full withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Dr. Mashariqah asserted that the ball is now in the Israeli court, and that Israel is responsible for obstructing the peace process because it is evading international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

Vice President Mashariqah added: Israel's desire to accelerate the pace of Syrian-Israeli negotiations following their resumption in the U.S. State of Maryland was confined to issuing positive statements and creating an optimistic atmosphere of openness. He stressed that the Israeli prime minister's "rosy" statements about peace and negotiations are not enough to accomplish peace. The Maryland negotiations, he said, will be the real test of how serious Peres' statements are about Israel's desire for peace.

Dr. Mashariqah said that Israel does not favor an active U.S. role in the negotiations nor for this role to be neutral and impartial; rather, Israel is trying to talk Washington into adopting the Israeli viewpoint regarding the proposed issues.

The Syrian vice president revealed that Israel has tried several political and military tactics to separate the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, but to no avail. He asserted that Israel will remain incapable of doing so because the bond between Syria and Lebanon is stronger than all conspiracies.

Damascus Radio Urges U.S. To Push Israel To Advance Peace

JN0102080596 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Jan 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: It is no longer useful to say that the Maryland talks, which will end this evening, provide a great opportunity. The remaining hours cannot add much, since the marathon talks during this round and the previous one did not achieve what was hoped for.

We will not say anything before the results are announced by the concerned parties at the talks. However, we must say that the Israeli delegation did not offer anything at the talks to serve the peace process, which is based on international legitimacy and its resolutions. Instead, the Israeli delegation offered ideas that serve its own interests, disregarding the foundations and principles on which the peace process was based more than four years ago in Madrid.

The general atmosphere that surrounded the hard-line statements of Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Barak affected the performance of the Israeli delegation and created an atmosphere of hesitation. This atmosphere did not allow the parties to discuss substantive issues that must be dealt with seriously and responsibly. By substantive, we mean Israel's withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 lines and proposing reasonable security arrangements that do not infringe on sovereignty and that provide security for all in an equitable [mutakafi'], equal [mutasawi], and balanced [mutawazin] manner — despite the fact that Israel possesses a huge arsenal of conventional, nonconventional, and banned weapons that is far greater than that possessed by all Arab and several neighboring states together. The Israelis confirm part of this fact and do not deny the other part, which has to do with nonconventional weapons. In fact, they have threatened to use such weapons more than once.

We had hoped that Barak's visit to Washington — which coincided with the current round of talks — would be a serious contribution to advancing the talks. Apparently, these hopes were misplaced. The opposite happened. Reports on the talks do not indicate substantial progress or a qualitative shift, as was believed from earlier hints that had accompanied Shim'on Peres' assumption of power and the resumption of the talks.

Everyone who follows the peace process knows which party is offering a great deal to help the peace process advance and which party is obstructing progress and wasting time in a useless endeavor. It is high time the

U.S. Administration, which is aware of minute details, dotted the i's, in line with its universal responsibility. It should also work to have its initiative implemented within the framework of the guarantees it has offered, in order to seize the opportunity for peace and serve security and stability in the region and in the world.

Syrian Sources Cited on Syria-Lebanon Council Session

MM3101162196 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
31 Jan 96 p 1

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Syrian Sources Confirm Support for Army To Enable It To Take Control of Lebanon's Borders"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — Informed Syrian sources have described as extremely important the results of the Syrian-Lebanese Higher Council meetings and their impact in terms of "reinforcing economic and political cooperation" between Damascus and Beirut, pointing out that coordination between the two sides "is reinforcing the Lebanese military establishment" in order "to enable it to protect its borders."

The sources told AL-HAYAH yesterday: "Syrian-Lebanese coordination and joint action are reinforcing the Lebanese military establishment through Syrian arms supplies to the Lebanese Army to enable it to take control of (Lebanon's) borders and reinforce national sovereignty over Lebanese territory."

Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi presided over the meetings of the Higher Council, which was established under the "brotherhood and cooperation" treaty of 1991 in the presence of senior officials in the two countries.

The sources cited [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' as saying that "if Syria had any ambitions toward

Lebanon it would not have shown any interest in its unity or made any efforts to stop the civil war." It also cited him as saying that Damascus "united the Lebanese Army, whose personnel have been increased from 30,000 to 60,000 with Syria's help."

The Syrian sources said that "no colonizing state would reinforce the army of a state it is colonizing." On peace negotiations and the link between the Syrian and Lebanese tracks the sources pointed out that "any progress on the Syrian-Israeli track is progress on the Lebanese track." They told us: "It does not mean that the Syrians are negotiating on behalf of the Lebanese."

The sources added: "Syria will not negotiate on Lebanon's behalf. It is all to do with the integrative link between the two sides and their coordination over the achievement of peace."

The sources said that relations between Syria and Lebanon "are a model for inter-Arab relations and are strengthening the two countries. Through these relations the two countries deal with one another with confidence. They are working together to secure a joint view of national and pan-Arab aims."

Official media services yesterday continued to focus on the meetings' results, saying that the two sides "stressed coordination and consultation between the two countries, the development of relations between them in the economic and social spheres, and the need to improve economic conditions in the two countries. They also stressed the unity of the Syrian-Lebanese position on the peace process and adherence to the aim of achieving a just and comprehensive peace based on the foundations of the Madrid conference."

Afghanistan

UN Envoy Mestiri Holds Talks With Mas'ud in Kabul

LD3101143096 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Pursuing his peace efforts in Afghanistan, Mahmoud Mestiri, the UN's special envoy on Afghanistan, met with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the military commander of Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society], in light of the recent efforts to restore peace in Afghanistan. According to a report by IRNA from Kabul, during yesterday's meeting, Mahmoud Mestiri expressed the hope that all Afghan groups will join peace talks to achieve a comprehensive agreement, taking into account the readiness of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani to hold talks with the leaders of the opposing groups. Mahmoud Mestiri also said that he is trying to persuade the Taliban to hold talks with the government to iron out their differences. He left Kabul yesterday.

Afghan Opposition Leader Hekmatyar States Conditions for Talks

LD3101204896 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0230 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russians are taking revenge on our Muslim nation for defeating them, brother Hekmatyar said in an interview with a renowned Pakistani weekly, THE PATRIOT. He added that all those forces that were opposing foreign interference in the country should unite. Answering a question, brother Hekmatyar said: We have some conditions for talks. They are the formation of an interim government as a result of talks between all sides, and the handing over of power to the interim government, which will check foreign interference in all forms and hold elections at an opportune time after the restoration of peace and security; and then power shall be handed over to an elected government.

Demonstrations Held Against High Prices in Kabul

LD3101210196 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0230 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Food and fuel prices have gone up in Kabul. Quoting a resident of Kabul who recently arrived in Peshawar via Jalalabad, a Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reports to us that food and fuel prices have gone up very much in Kabul: flour is 22,000 afghanis per 7 kg; beef 14,000 afghanis per kg; a 5-kg ghee tin 45,000 afghanis; coal 80,000 afghanis per sack; firewood 7,000 afghanis per 7 kg; sugar 5,500

afghanis per kg; kerosene 27,000 afghanis per gallon; and bread 800 afghanis per loaf. Our correspondent quoted the resident of Kabul as having said that the Kabul administration commanders appear on the scene immediately after the arrival of a food truck and buy everything at a very high price, storing it in their storehouses. This has caused the prices to go up in Kabul.

Two days ago, the oppressed people of Kabul demonstrated near the presidential palace and called on President Rabbani either to feed them or take away their children. The demonstrators also asked that the Kabul administration should cause no more destruction and kill no more people, and that it should hand over the power to an interim government.

In another event, hundreds of Kabul residents demonstrated against the Rabbani government. Reports reaching Radio Message of Freedom said that the other day hundreds of people demonstrated in Wazir Akbar Khan District against Rabbani's government. The demonstrators condemned Rabbani's clinging to power and demanded his immediate resignation. The demonstrators asked all jihadi parties to unite and resolve the crisis in the country through talks. The demonstrators called the continuation of fighting in the country treason to the cause of the martyrs and demanded the immediate cessation of the fighting.

President Rabbani Meets Peace Activists

LD3101220096 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani met this afternoon a number of members of peace activists. [passage omitted]

The Afghan President then spoke and said: We welcome every effort made for the restoration of a nationwide peace in the country. [Words indistinct] We have announced that if the belligerent parties, because of some reasons or excuses, cannot gather in the capital of the country, the president is ready to visit their headquarters and hold face-to-face talks with them. Soon after this announcement, the government delegations were assigned to travel to various places and hold talks with the opposition parties.

Esteemed president added: On the basis of our peace seeking policy, we appreciate every peace-seeking initiative taken by any individual, any circle or any group. [Words indistinct]

Taleban Fires 8 Rockets on Kabul; 2 Injured

LD3101174396 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night and this morning, the Taleban group fired rockets on the residential areas of Kabul.

BAKHITAR reported that Benazir Bhutto's Taleban fired last night and this morning eight rockets on residential areas, wounding two citizens of Kabul. One residential house also sustained damage.

Major Convoy of Foodstuffs, Fuel Arrives in Kabul

LD3101174096 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A major convoy of foodstuffs and fuel arrived in Kabul today via the Maydan Shar route [route is being controlled by the Taleban group].

BAKHITAR reported that this convoy consists of 70 trucks carrying flour, cooking oil, firewood, petroleum, and other commodities needed by Kabul citizens.

Major General Mohammad Zahir Akbar, member of Kabul city's security commission, told BAKHTAR that this convoy, after a delay, arrived in Kabul today. [Words indistinct]

Another 200 truck-loads of foodstuffs are due to arrive in Kabul tomorrow via the country's highways.

India**Situation Improves on Indian Border; No Large-Scale Army Movement**

BK3101161196 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The security forces are maintaining strict vigil along the line of actual control in Jammu and Kashmir. The state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, reviewed the situation with the corps commander, Lieutenant General M.S. Bhullar, in Jammu.

A flag meeting was also held at the BSF [Border Security Force] post in Ranbirsinghpura sector between the local commanders of the BSF and the Pakistani Rangers. A BSF spokesman later said that it was conveyed to the Pakistani officers that while India remains committed to erect a border fence, there was no construction activity as yet in (Maulu) sector.

Our Jammu correspondent who visited some villages affected by the Pakistani firing reports that anti-Pakistan demonstrations were held in Pragwal and other border villages.

The divisional commander, Major Gen. S.P. Kapur, said that measures initiated by India have begun defusing the situation in the critical Chicken Neck area in Akhnur sector of the Indo-Pakistan border. Briefing newsmen in Akhnur today, he said the situation is under control and no displacement of civilians has taken place in the area.

Meanwhile, BSF official intelligence reports say that the number of Pakistani Rangers deployed along the 32-km front in the Chicken Neck area has registered a threefold increase. Our correspondent V. Narayanan, who visited the border, reports that there are no large-scale movements by the Army on the Indian side of the border.

Pakistan Pledges Noninterference in Indian Gas Pipeline Project

BK2901100096 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 29 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad has assured New Delhi that it has no intention to interfere with the gas pipeline that may be constructed across Pakistan. The assurance was given by the petroleum minister of Pakistan, Mr. Anwar Saifullah Khan, while addressing a conference on natural gas in New Delhi today. In his response to the assurance, the petroleum and natural gas minister, Captain Satish Sharma, said this is a very welcome statement in view of the proposed Indo-Iranian gas pipeline. He said this attitude will help both India and Pakistan to strengthen cooperation in the oil and natural gas sector in Southeast Asia [as heard].

The three-day conference is being attended by petroleum and natural gas experts from India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

Indian Commentary Blames Pakistan for Tension, Rules Out War

BK0102105796 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 1 Feb 96

[Commentary by Prakash Nanda, special correspondent of THE TIMES OF INDIA]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] That India has never wanted armed confrontation with Pakistan can be best evident from Prime Minister Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao's statement on Wednesday before the Consultative Committee of Parliament for the Defense Ministry. He said that the Indian Army is showing great restraint at the unprovoked firing by the Pakistani Army across the Line of Control in Kashmir since 19 January.

As a matter of fact, in four days between 26 and 30 January alone, Pakistani troops fired approximately 86,000

rounds from machine guns, along with 620-mm howitzer shells. The Indian Army, of course, has responded but this response has been quite restrained. The Indian Army has fired about only 7,000 rounds from machine guns. This asymmetry between the Pakistani firing and counter-firing exposes, if anything, Islamabad's game plan of keeping the tension alive on the Indo-Pak border.

Regrettably, this game plan even includes killing its own people; that too when they were offering prayers in a mosque as it happened on 26 January. Though Islamabad propaganda machineries devoted all their energy that day to say that India fired two rockets at a mosque in forward Kahuta village of the Pak-occupied Kashmir, killing eight [as heard] worshipers and wounding 20 others, not many did buy this disinformation campaign. Even the United Nations monitoring group in India and Pakistan, which rushed to the site to verify the Pakistani claims, returned unconvinced that Indian rockets hit the mosque. In any case, it is beyond comprehension how an Indian rocket, which was not fitted with a guided or a ballistic device, could exactly and precisely hit an intended target, which was the mosque in this case.

It is against this background that one could say that it was the Pakistani Army, which could have itself fired the rockets at the mosque just to heighten the tensions in Kashmir and to malign India before the world community and also to add to their propaganda that India is un-Islamic. In other words, Pakistan has not only cooked up a false ground for the incident, but it has also added communal color to it.

One can discern a clear pattern behind this disinformation campaign by Pakistan. This pattern has two aspects. One is that at a time when India is seriously considering to hold elections in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan wants to send mercenaries and militants into the valley for thwarting the electoral process in Kashmir. According to the reports, 5,000 Pakistani and Kashmiri militants are waiting in different sectors to cross over to the Indian side for creating troubles before and during election process. Further, the Bhutto government thinks that giving communal color to this incident will complicate the matter for Indian leadership in the coming elections. The other aspect is that Bhutto regime wants to divert the public disenchantment against it, particularly over its complete failure to bring the civil war in Karachi under control by raising the bogey of another war with India.

Of late, Islamabad has been showing the so-called circumstantial evidence that India would launch a full-scale war on Pakistan and so-called Azad Kashmir in or around the month of April 1996; but what are these

evidences? They, according to Pakistan, are heavy concentration of and massive exercise of Indian troops near the Line of Control in Kashmir and Rajasthan deserts, Indian preparation for conducting an alleged second nuclear explosion, and New Delhi's determination to go ahead with the launching of Prithvi and Agni missiles. With all this, the general public in Pakistan is being persuaded to believe under the (?plea) that the Indian prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, in order to face the forthcoming general elections, has decided to overtake the extremist forces in jingoism; but then the Pakistani people are not going to be so susceptible to such mindless explanations one hopes. Elections after elections, the Indian people have proved to the whole world that they are second to none in their political maturity; besides, unlike its counterpart in Pakistan, the Indian political leadership — irrespective of its party affiliations at any given time — has been never known to put the whole nation at war for its narrow political interests. It cannot be the case, certainly, at this point of time when there is a growing national consensus to arrive at political stability for achieving the economic growth. In fact, it is Pakistan, which is escalating tensions on the border to divert the attention of its people from its domestic failures.

Cambodia's Ranariddh Meets India's Rao, Sharma; Accords Signed

*BK3101161696 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1530 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Cambodia agreed to set up a joint commission for economic, scientific, and technological cooperation. This was decided when the visiting Cambodian prime minister, Mr. Norodom Ranariddh, called on his Indian counterpart, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao in New Delhi. A cultural agreement was also signed between the two countries.

Earlier, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Cambodia in New Delhi to facilitate investment in both the countries. Addressing the gathering, the Cambodian prime minister called upon the Indian companies to invest in his country. He recalled the active role played by India in the national rehabilitation of Cambodia after the war. Speaking on the occasion, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, said that there is scope for increased cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

The Cambodian prime minister also called on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, at Rashtrapati Bhavan (President House).

MOU Signed for Promoting Indian Investment in Cambodia

BK3001064696 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 30 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Cambodian prime minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, has urged the Indian industrialists to invest in his country. Speaking in Calcutta last evening, he thanked India for helping his country restore peace, democracy, and stability.

A memorandum of understanding [MOU] was signed between the Cambodian Investment Board and the Confederation of Indian Industry to promote Indian investment in Cambodia and also bilateral trade. The Cambodian prime minister will reach New Delhi this evening. He is scheduled to call on the president and the prime minister.

India Signs Economic, Trade Agreements With Israel

BK2901103096 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 29 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Israel have signed three agreements to boost economic and trade relations. The agreements cover bilateral investment promotion and protection, customs cooperation, and the double taxation avoidance. The agreements were signed by the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and his visiting counterpart, Mr. Avraham Shohat, in New Delhi today. Describing these agreements as important milestones, Dr. Manmohan Singh said the foundation has been laid for increased flow of trade and investment including joint ventures, for the transfer of technology in both directions.

Earlier, the two ministers had detailed discussions to review the bilateral economic relations. The Israeli finance minister, Mr. Shohat, is on an official visit to India at the invitation of the Indian finance minister. He is accompanied by a 21-member delegation, which includes 11 prominent captains of the Israeli industry.

Article Claims New Delhi 'Rediscovering' Russian Arms Source

BK2601144296 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 25 Jan 96 p 10

[Article by Dinesh Kumar: "Rediscovering Russia as Arms Source"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Six years after the Soviet Union disintegrated, India is fast heading towards rediscovering Russia, the proclaimed successor to USSR as a major source of arms supply. This gradual rediscovery is dictated by a somewhat disappointing experience with

the United States. Although, a revival of cooperation with Russia is a welcome change this should not necessarily mean forgoing bilateral defence relations with the US. In fact, there is an enormous scope for bilateral defence cooperation with the US in which the Indian armed forces have much to learn from their American counterparts. India should continue its efforts in cooperating with the US even if the latter is currently not prepared to venture into transfer of defence technology and joint production.

Desperate Situation

One is tempted here to point out the desperate situation Indian armed forces found themselves in following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Virtually overnight, the Indian armed forces were reduced to scrounging for every nut and bolt of Soviet manufactured weapon systems. Serviceability of Soviet-originated weapon systems had dipped alarmingly low, and in some cases the armed forces were even forced to cannibalise for spares. At one point in time, the IAF [Indian Air Force] had no option but to ground a significant percentage of its fleet. This woeful state of affairs had left bureaucrats and service officers in South Block unanimously lamenting on how New Delhi had gravely erred by placing all its eggs in one basket.

A certain level of cooperation with the former Soviet Union will continue since the bulk of defence hardware with the Indian armed forces is of Soviet origin. This includes over 70 per cent of the air force fleet, a bulk of ships and submarines with the navy, and tanks and other weapon systems with the army. Such capital intensive items take considerable time to be inducted and fitted into the operational philosophy of the armed forces.

India made one basic error in its defence dealings with the former Soviet Union. While India continued to buy defence hardware for three long decades, this was not always accompanied by complete technology transfer and joint production ventures. Neither were such purchases synchronised with indigenous research and development. That is partly why, for example, an indigenous engine for the Light Combat Aircraft and the main battle tank remains a distant reality, even though India has been assembling Soviet aircraft and tanks for over 30 years. Evidently, our defence planners lacked vision. South Block will do well to keep this in mind as it ventures into renewed partnership with Russia. The current line up of equipment in the pipeline from Russia includes about 40 Sukhoi-30 long-range multi-role aircraft, six Type 1135.6 frigates and at least two Class 636 (Type 877 EKM) submarines, Tanguiska air defence missiles, a possible aircraft carrier and the upgrading of about 100 Mig-21 Bis fighters.

Russia being the biggest Euro-Asian power, a permanent member of the Security Council, a de facto member of the G-7 and a nuclear weapon state with enormous mineral and natural resources is important for India. A section in the Russian bureaucracy has lately been looking westwards after the cold war. That may change with the recent victory of the Communists. After all Russia has not always had a happy experience in its dealing with the west. Moscow has not been consulted by the west on important international issues. It has not been provided adequate aid and market access. New Delhi similarly has had a somewhat roller-coaster ride with Washington. America's "rediscovery" of Islamabad and its interference in Kashmir are major irritants for Indo-US relations. Additionally, the western defence technology is more expensive for India.

Two Principles

In view of all these factors New Delhi should reconstruct bilateral defence relations with Moscow based on two principles. First, the Indian defence establishment must synchronise such ventures with its indigenous defence research and development programmes and aim at near self-reliance within the next decade. Second, India's renewed association with Russia will involve a tight-rope walk with other CIS republics. For India also has a broad military-technical cooperation with Ukraine. This is primarily due to retention of multiple links between the defence establishments of the two countries as also the lower prices offered by Kiev in contrast to Moscow. But unlike Moscow, Kiev has been actively pursuing a defence relationship with Islamabad which has not only shown keen interest in purchasing advanced conventional defence hardware such as about 300 T-80 tanks but has also been seeking access to technological achievements in the field of missile production and space exploration. The repercussions of an Islamabad-Kiev tie up will have to be solely taken into account by New Delhi.

Editorial: India's Missile Program Not Destabilizing
BK3101135896 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA
in English 30 Jan 96 p 8

[Editorial: "Indigenous Response"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The longer range variant of the indigenously developed Prithvi missile has been successfully tested. The state-of-the-art missile which is being developed for the Indian Air Force is reported to have impacted at the exact designated point, which vouches for its accuracy. A liquid-propelled, highly mobile missile, it can carry a 1000-kg payload over 250 km, 100 km more than Prithvi-I, and has on board computers as well as an advanced inertial and navigation

system. There will be more test flights of the missile before it is formally inducted into the Air Force. The missile is to come with five types of conventional warheads which will engage armoured formations and hardened targets like air fields. It is essentially a tactical missile of the kind already available in Pakistan, China, Iran, Saudi Arabia and other countries around us. India has lagged far behind other countries of Asia in introducing missiles into its armed forces essentially because of its eagerness to rely on indigenous development. There is an established China-Pakistan connection on missile technology and supplies and the history of last two decades proves that the responses of major arms producers in the world are invariably dictated by the exigencies of current policies. Tilt means that there can be no certainty of their coming under any guaranteed restraint regime. In this situation, India has no option but indigenously to develop and produce them.

The argument that missile deployment by India will destabilise the sub-continent is untenable. Most modern aircraft can fly farther than the missiles and carry many times the payload. Indeed, those who decry the Indian deployment of missiles have no compunctions whatever about selling aircraft with much longer ranges and greater weapon loads, delivered by air to ground missiles at the terminal stages. Short-range missiles like Prithvi are, in fact, part of the overall delivery capability, aimed at delivering conventional ordnance at distances covered by aircraft. Given the cost of modern aircraft there is a good case for examining partial trade offs between aircraft and missiles. The present Prithvi test and those to follow are meant to convey a clear message to those who think they can dictate this country's national security policy: India does not need any lessons on exercise of restraint from outside powers, especially from those who have been at the forefront of some of the costliest arms race in the last half a century and who persist with this madness even after the Cold War. There is a vital distinction between the acquisition of weapon and its provocative forward deployment. Our neighbour has received a number of missiles from an external source and is keeping them uncrated. The correct Indian response would be to produce the missiles but not deploy them close to the border during peace time.

**Indian Commentary: Colombo Blast Exposes
'Gaping Holes' in Security***BK0102065396 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 1 Feb 96**[Commentary by T. Kannan]*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The fragile calm in Sri Lanka was shattered once more with the powerful explosions in downtown Colombo yesterday forenoon. The Central Bank of Ceylon controlling the Sri Lankan economy became a towering inferno snuffing out the lives of many employees and injuring scores of others. The Defense Ministry said an explosive-laden heavy vehicle rammed into the entrance barrier of the Central Bank. This mammoth blast also caused raging fires in a number of buildings in the vicinity. The death toll may cross 200. With more than 1,000 people injured, the Wednesday morning blast has become the worst tragedy in Sri Lanka after the rise of terrorism in the island. The Defense Ministry also said several arrests have been made and two of the detained persons have admitted that they were members of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam].

The slaying of Gamini Disnayake [former leader of the opposition] and 50 others by a woman suicide bomber in October 1994 was the first major attack by the LTTE after the People's Alliance captured power in August that year. In August last year, nearly 75 people were killed or injured by a bomb concealed among tender coconuts. Millions of rupees worth petroleum products were lost in fire in October following suicide attacks on two oil complexes, and in November two suicide bombers targeted the Army Headquarters unsuccessfully but killed about 20 bystanders in Colombo. Following these incidents and threat perceptions to the chief executive, security was beefed up in Colombo. While the people have been putting up with the inconveniences caused by unprecedented security regulations near the president's residence and other sensitive areas, yesterday's incident has exposed the gaping holes in the whole system.

What does the LTTE seek to achieve by such display of cold-blooded killings and callous indifference to human lives? Perhaps, it has come to the conclusion that there is nothing to lose further in the international arena after they broke off the truce unilaterally in April last year. As the deputy defense minister, Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte, said the LTTE is desperate to show that it has not lost its touch after the fall of Jaffna. He made it clear that irrespective of this incident, the operation against the LTTE will continue. The Central Bank governor went on the air last night to assure the country that the assets of the bank are secure, cash vaults have not

been damaged, the bank will continue to assist in the foreign exchange and money markets. Despite these assurances, the blast has dealt a severe blow to the country's economy, tourism, and even to the ensuing World Cup cricket fixtures in Colombo.

Rao Assures Safeguards Taken for India's Security*BK0102073896 Delhi Doordarshan Television
Network in English 1530 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has said that Indian Army is showing great restraint in response to the unprovoked firing from the Pakistan Army across the Line of Control. Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao today informed the consultative committee members attached to the Defense Ministry that the firings of Pakistani Army had commenced on the 19th of this month.

On the U.S. move to resume arms to Pakistan, Mr. Rao said all possible steps to safeguard the country's security are being taken. On the Purulia arms drop case, the prime minister said a comprehensive inquiry report will be available soon.

**Indian Farmers Destroy U.S. Fast-Food Restaurant
in Bangalore***BK3101022496 Delhi Doordarshan Television
Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] About 40 activists of the Karnataka State Farmers Association today went on a rampage destroying furniture and utensils of the multinational Kentucky Fried Chicken [KFC] outlet in Bangalore. The fastfood joint has been closed indefinitely.

Police said the volunteers gained entry posing as customers. Some people suffered minor injuries after being hit by glass splinters. The association has been protesting against multinational fastfood joints.

**Farmers Group Rejects New Delhi Claims About
Food Supplies***BK3101151596 Varanasi AJ in Hindi 9 Jan 96 p 7**[VARTA report]*

[FBIS Translated Text] New Delhi, 8 Jan—All India Kisan Sabha [AIKS—farmers organization] has described as totally false the central government's claim that the country has achieved self-sufficiency in food and has sufficient food grain stocks for export. Addressing a news conference here, AIKS General Secretary S. Ramachandran Pillai and Joint Secretary N.K. Shukla said that the country needs 230 million tons of food grain per year for the current population, while average production during the past four years has only been 180

million tons. They said that India will need 500 million tons of food grain by the year 2000 to meet the requirements of its growing population.

Shukla said that, according to government statistics, 30 to 40 percent of the country's population is not able to get two square meals per day. Their purchasing power is very low. He said the central government should first make food available to the percentage of the population living below the official poverty line and then see how much disposable food remains in its stock. He said the government's incorrect economic liberalization policy has caused severe fluctuations in the price of agricultural products, which in turn has caused great hardships for the poor masses.

Harshly criticizing the central government's policies, Shukla said that allowing multinational companies into the agriculture sector will be dangerous for the country, and that is why they should be prevented from entering this sector. He listed 17 AIKS demands that the central government must fulfill. The AIKS asked the government to complete the land reform program, implement the Green Revolution program throughout the country, extend irrigation facilities by increasing public investment in the sector, maintain the level of subsidies to the agriculture sector, ensure remunerative prices to the farmers for their products, enforce a crop insurance scheme in all states, and enact legislation at the federal level to ensure payment of minimum wages and to protect agricultural workers.

Shukla disclosed that the AIKS has decided to launch a nationwide movement with the cooperation of various farmers organizations to protect the interests of farmers and others engaged in agriculture-related occupations. The AIKS will also organize sit-ins and rallies in January and February.

Indian Regional Party Demands 'Special Autonomous Status' for All

*BK3101124696 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES
in English 30 Jan 96 p 7*

[Article by P.K. Balachandran: "Karunanidhi Seeks J&K-Type Status for All States"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) on Sunday demanded that all the constituent States of India be given the special autonomous status currently applicable only to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution.

"I warn the Union Government that if this is not conceded there would be more Kashmiris all over India," the party's president, Mr M. Karunanidhi, told a cheering crowd of five lakh cadres and faithfuls on the

concluding day of the DMK's eighth State conference here.

Mr Karunanidhi justified his demand, saying that State autonomy of the type accorded to Jammu and Kashmir was a necessary condition for the very survival of a united India. "It is status autonomy which can provide Indian unity a strong foundation," he said.

The DMK, which began as a secessionist outfit, gave up separatism in 1962, following a move to ban it under a law which made preaching secession an offence. But, even as it did so, it propounded the concept of "State autonomy". It felt that though India was described as the world's largest democracy, the relations between the Central Government and the constituent States, were far from democratic.

"With the concentration of power in the Centre, there is actually a kind of imperial rule on a republican basis. Continuing with this structure is testing over faith in federalism and democracy," said a resolution passed at the conference here on Sunday.

"To protect the multi-linguistic and multi-cultural India of sub-continental dimensions, a wholesome and genuine federalism is a necessity," the resolution added. Combined with the "special" resolution on the immediate need to amend the Indian Constitution to make Tamil (and subsequently all India languages) an official language of India, the DMK has taken a distinctive stance vis-a-vis its rivals in the coming elections to the State legislature and the Central Parliament.

The stance assumes significance in the light of the fact that competitive Tamil ethnicity is a dominant feature of Tamil Nadu politics. Mr Karunanidhi has to contend with the strident "Tamilism" of the renegade DMK leader, Mr V.Gopalsamy, who now heads his own radical outfit. He also has to be one up over the ruling AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], led by Ms J. Jayalalitha, which is also a Tamil based regional party, though of a milder kind.

While the MDMK [Marumalachi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] views the giving up of separatism as "temporary", is an ardent supporter of the armed struggle to secure a separate "Tamil Eelam" in Sri Lanka and eulogises the role of the Tamil Tigers (LTTE), the DMK considers the giving up of separatism as being for good, and it also does not press for a separate Tamil Eelam in Sri Lanka.

It had ceased to be a supporter of the LTTE after a series of assassinations including that of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in Tamil Nadu in 1991. The assassination allegedly carried out by the LTTE, which

in turn, was allegedly supported by the DMK, cost the DMK dearly in the 1991 elections. It was pulverised.

The eighth plenary of the DMK, significantly, did not mention the LTTE even once. There was a resolution calling upon the Indian Government to prevail upon the Sri Lanka to stop its military onslaught on the Tamils and regretted that the Sri Lankan Government had not allowed the International Red Cross to carry the DMK's Rs [rupees] 2.5 million relief package to the Tamil refugees. Very significantly, in his concluding address, Mr Karunanidhi, did not even mention the Sri Lankan Tamil question.

"Apart from dwelling on "Kashmir-type autonomy," Mr Karunanidhi, lambasted the Narasimha Rao and Jayalalitha governments which he felt were steeped in corruption and self-aggrandisement callously neglecting the welfare of the common man, the farmer and the entrepreneur.

"Bribery has driven investors from Tamil Nadu," Mr Karunanidhi said, giving several telling examples.

The sharp attack on the "corrupt and callous" Narasimha Rao government at the Centre and his recalling the many instances in which the Congress stabbed him in the back scotched all speculation about the likelihood of an electoral alliance with the Congress.

Appealing to the Muslims and Christians, Mr Karunanidhi stated that only the DMK was truly secular. He pointed how Mr Narasimha Rao and Ms Jayalalitha were brazenly associating themselves with one religion — Hinduism.

Indian Supreme Court Orders Wider Investigation in Hawala Scandal

BK3001163096 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Supreme Court today directed the central investigating agencies to probe into every accusation against each and every person in the hawala [illegal money transfer] case. Asking these agencies to probe the cases expeditiously, the apex court has made it clear that investigations should be done against the involved, irrespective of position and status.

The direction was given by a three-judge bench comprising Mr. Justice J.S. Verma, Mr. Justice S.P. Varucha, and Mr. Justice S.C. Sen. The judges adjourned the hearing of the case to the 22d of next month. The judges, however, observed that if the investigating agencies, namely FERA [Foreign Exchange Regulation Act], Income Tax [departments] and the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] find that there is no prima facie case against a person, they must

report back to the apex court so that the court can decide the matter further. The judges directed that no settlement should be arrived at or no case should be closed without the Supreme Court's direction. These directions came when the court resumed hearing of the case. The Jain hawala case has been brought before the Supreme Court through a public interest petition.

The Janata Dal says the CBI should file charge-sheets against all those involved in the hawala case and ensure their early trial. In a resolution, the national executive of the party charged the CBI with inordinate delay in launching prosecution against some of the accused. Briefing newsmen in New Delhi today, the Janata Dal spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, demanded the resignation on moral grounds of all the ministers whose names figured in the diary seized in the case. The national executive also condemned the Maharashtra government's decision to wind up the Sri Krishna Commission inquiring into the Mumbai [Bombay] riots.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] spokesperson, Ms. Sushma Swaraj, has ruled out any possibility of party president, Mr. L.K. Advani, stepping down from his post following his being charge-sheeted by the CBI. Briefing newsmen in the capital today, she denied reports that there are divisions in the party about Mr. Advani continuing as party president.

Iran

Iranian Commentary Calls U.S. Claim of Missile Test 'Propaganda'

LD3101133996 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 31 Jan 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] REUTER, on Tuesday January 30, quoting the Pentagon, claimed [that] Iran has recently test-fired a short-range anti-ship missile in the north of the Persian Gulf. REUTER quoted [the] U.S. commander of the Fifth Fleet, Admiral Scott Redd, saying: The test is a threat to the region's security by Iran.

Many political analysts hold [that] the Persian Gulf has turned into a center where America flexes its muscles once in a while, and is maintaining its illegitimate presence since the end of the Oil War and Kuwaiti crisis in 1991.

Based on statistics and statements made by some experts, U.S. has quadrupled its servicemen since the Persian Gulf War. The number of U.S. militarymen in the region is estimated at 20,000 or more. Such an illegitimate presence has entered a new stage since June 1995,

following a reinforcement of America's fifth warship [as heard] in the Persian Gulf. In the wake of such reinforcement, the Pentagon has constantly attempted to, under any possible pretext, justify its interferences in regional matters at any opportune moment.

Claims such as Iran's stationing of defense equipment and its military transfers in areas under its control in the Persian Gulf waters, as well as the release of shady statistics over Iran's arms purchases, are part of U.S. propaganda policies.

The Pentagon's claims over Iran's testing of long-range [as heard] missile in the northern waters of the Persian Gulf, is no exception and pursues no other aim other than deflecting attention from its interferences and is an attempt to justify America's military policies in the region. In fact America, as the main arms export country in the world, which intends to sell weapons worth \$60-\$80 billion to Arab countries in the Persian Gulf region until the end of 1999, relies more than ever on psychological propaganda ploys to create false crises.

It goes without saying that Iran, as a country which has borne the brunt amidst the eight-year long imposed war and a crisis resulting from the West's arms support for Iraq, attaches greater importance to regional peace and security as compared to any other country. Despite a critical situation prevailing over the area, merely 1.6 percent of the country's gross national income is allocated to defense purposes. For the Islamic Republic of Iran seeks lasting security in the region, merely through peaceful coexistence and cooperation based on mutual trust and good faith, with its Arab neighbors in the Persian Gulf; and has, on various occasions, shown its great will to put an end to any threat and intimidation in the region. And [it] strongly opposes any militarization of the region by alien countries.

Tehran Radio Comments on PRC Warnings to Taiwan, U.S.

LD3101205496 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1530 GMT 31 Jan 96

[Unidentified commentary: "China's Warning to the United States and Taiwan"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng warned the U.S. on Tuesday, January 30, to stop meddling in that country's internal affairs and threatened the anti-Chinese factions in the Taiwanese government that unless they stop supporting Taiwan's independence from China, Beijing might intervene militarily. Mr. Li said that Beijing has an independent and peaceful foreign policy and opposes any kind of intimidation by outside powers. He also announced the Tai-

wan issue to be on the Chinese agenda for resolution before the year 2000, adding Taiwan is part of China.

Recently the presence of American naval fleet round the island country of Taiwan and the upsurge in the activities of the pro-independence forces on the island has raised the concerns of the Beijing government. The spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry warned the U.S. on Tuesday, January 30, expressing for the first time China's serious concern over the recent passage by a U.S. carrier through the Formosa Strait. Political experts believe America has started a tangible effort which aims at flaring up unrest in the Taiwan Strait and arousing anti-Chinese sentiments among Americans. Actually Washington intends to sway Chinese policies in regard to regional relations and international matters. Despite claims voiced by Washington over trying to defuse tension in relations with China, it still pursues a policy which aims at containing Beijing.

It seems that the existing strain in Sino-American relations provides grounds for a vast political confrontation in southern Asia and this itself would enable the U.S. to realize its goal of a more expanded military presence in the region. Presently the issue of Taiwan is the most important excuse which Washington intends to exploit to the full.

Washington's 'Defeat' in Confronting Iran Analyzed

NC3101152296 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 21 Jan 96 p 1

[Editorial: "The Secret of Washington's Failures"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "America cannot upset the internal situation in Iran without catastrophically plunging the Persian Gulf into a crisis." Stating this at a seminar held recently in San Francisco, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger continued: "The nature of Iran's ruling system is more complicated than traditional and classic analysts portray it to be."

Kissinger's remarks were apparently a tacit reply to a political analysis by Amos Perlmutter, a political science lecturer at American University, on the need to confront the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was published in the WASHINGTON TIMES.

In his analysis, Perlmutter advised American decision-makers to invest in a psychological war and to encourage intellectual operations against the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said the mass media, under Washington's orders, should follow the policy of a political-psychological war against Iran and feign that the intention is to create a "free Iran."

This is not the first time that American university circles have examined ways to confront the Islamic Republic of Iran and political scientists have prepared special reports on this. But, at the same time, Kissinger admits that the issue is more complicated than traditional analysts portray it to be. Why, after 17 years of enmity and confrontation with the Iranian nation, has Washington not learned how to confront Iran?

Kissinger is, at any rate, a veteran Zionist who is overtly hostile toward the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic nation of Iran. He has a record of persistent enmity with Muslim nations and especially the Iranian nation. But, at the same time, he believes that the issue is not as simple as is portrayed by a number of amateur lecturers on political science.

Perlmutter's analysis of Iranian affairs is nothing but a repetition of what has already been said a hundred times over. Before him others also talked about Iran and received money from the CIA to publish similar comments on Iran. And apart from copying repetitive advice and the sickening accusations made by America, he has not offered anything else and has nothing new to say.

He says: Iran is an enemy and a terrorist, it is dangerous, it wants to destroy civilization, and we should fight it. He adds that the allocation of a \$20-million fund for this confrontation is very necessary. He then uses extremely sly words to haggle over the price and says the amount allocated is minimal. He also says: Give this money to us so that we can use it in a psychological war and in intellectual operations against Iran!

Perlmutter also tacitly and roguishly accuses the CIA of being illiterate and of lacking profound knowledge, implying to the American decisionmakers that if they want to continue their enmity with Iran and to succeed, these \$20 million should be put into the hands of people who know how to deal with Iran. But he has nothing new to offer himself.

Irrespective of the incentives behind the old methods and the repetitive remarks by Perlmutter, the experience of the past 17 years very clearly shows that despite extensive, organized, and persistent foreign threats, no one can weaken the determination of our nation to continue on its path. On the contrary, because of their "anti-foreign nature", the people of Iran—irrespective of their inclinations and beliefs—immediately plan to confront and thwart the enemy's onslaught and plots as soon as they feel a threat from outside.

The history of the past two centuries and especially of the past two decades in Iran very clearly shows that by preserving the uniformity of our forces at home, no one

can break the determination of the Iranian nation. Each time during the past two decades that the enemies have succeeded in their onslaught, it has been because of the absence of this uniformity among our popular forces. They have been able to divide the ranks of the people only when our people have been overtaken by doubts. But this time, the Iranian nation has referred to its past experiences and has rubbed the muzzle of the enemy of humanity in mud in such a way that America feels weak and impotent and is constantly admitting its defeat in its efforts to confront Iran and the world movement of Islam. And after 17 years, the question that still remains unanswered for America is: How should Iran be confronted?

Va'ez: Tehran To Strive for Peace, Stability in Tajikistan

*LD0102122596 Tehran IRNA in English
1207 GMT 1 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA — Deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs, Mahmud Va'ez in a meeting held here on Wednesday [31 January] with Russian ambassador, Sergey Tretyakov, said that Iran will strive to bring about equitable peace and stability in Tajikistan.

Va'ez added that Iran's policy was for peaceful solution of the Tajikistan crisis, and stability in the region as a whole.

Tretyakov delivered a message from Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov to his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati dealing with the fifth round of peace talks on Tajikistan.

Iranian Energy Official, Italian Envoy Study Energy Cooperation

*LD3101213196 Tehran IRNA in English
2123 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA — Iran and Italy here today explored avenues of cooperation in power generation industry, during a meeting here today between Deputy Minister of Energy Mohammad Mallaki and the new Italian Ambassador to Tehran Ludovico Ortona.

Ortona, saying that his country was keen on cooperation with Iran in power generation and related projects, called for promotion of further relations between the two countries.

Mallaki in reply, outlined the achievements of Iran in the energy sector since the triumph of the Islamic revolution in 1979, and said the country was indebted to Iranian experts in this regard.

He called as "useful" exchange of information and technical know-how between the two countries in the field of electricity.

The Iranian official also expressed hope that Tehran and Rome could expand their cooperation in the said industry.

Iran's Habibi, Hungarian Envoy Review Prospects of Trade Ties

LD3101210696 *Tehran IRNA in English*
2057 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA — In a meeting here today with the new Hungarian ambassador, Astvan Toli, First Vice President Hasan Habibi said that expansion of economic relations between Central Asian republics and central and eastern European states, would lead to strengthening of the transit route to the Adriatic seaboard.

Habibi said that Iran for its part, was willing to provide special and safe facilities for promotion of trade ties between Central Asia and Europe.

Once the historic silk road was revived with the completion of the Mashhad-Sarakhs railway, Iran's landlocked northern neighbours will be linked to Europe and the rest of the world, he added.

Habibi also underlined the need for re-activating the Iran-Hungary joint commission in order to boost bilateral economic relations and the two sides cooperation at international forums.

Cultural relations particularly in the field of exchange of university professors and students between the two countries, as well as the setting up of a Persian language chair at Budapest University, would bring Iran-Hungary to a satisfactory level, said Habibi.

The Hungarian ambassador in reply, praised the strategic and sensitive role played by Iran in the region, aimed at expansion of economic relations between Central Asian and European countries.

He also called for further expansion of relations between Iran and his country.

Towards the end of the meeting, Toli stated that he will spare no efforts for expansion of Tehran-Budapest relations in all fields.

Tehran Daily Views Post-Election Problems in Turkey

NC3101152796 *Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian*
21 Jan 96 p 16

[Political commentary: "The Crisis of the Formation of the Cabinet in Turkey"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Necmettin Erbakan, leader of the Islamist Welfare [Refah] Party, could not elicit the support of the rightist or leftist parties to forge a coalition government despite a 21-22 percent lead in the polls. On Friday [19 January], he informed President Demirel that he was unable to form a cabinet. Subsequently, Tansu Ciller, True Path party leader and former prime minister, was assigned the task.

Thus, Erbakan fell into the same predicament as Ciller did three months ago.

The current crisis in the formation of a cabinet began at the end of September 1995 when the prime minister's economic policies elicited public displeasure and protests, with some factions seceding from the coalition government. The fall of the Ciller cabinet and a no-confidence vote against the government by the parliament paved the way for elections in which, contrary to expectations, the Welfare Party won.

In other words, the boycott facing Erbakan was the same that brought down the Ciller government earlier.

The nature of this four-month crisis changed. From its onset until its conclusion it underwent qualitative developments. The Ciller cabinet fell because it could not obtain the votes of the factions. However, Erbakan's defeat stemmed from the factions, splintered until recently, uniting their ranks in a boycott against the Welfare Party on the pretext of combating fundamentalism.

The Welfare Party's position and the adjustments made to that position within the past three months show the depth and roots of the crisis. This can also outline its prospects.

In the throes of his electioneering and on the eve of his efforts to form a cabinet, Erbakan announced that he would terminate the presence of the American forces, known as the Poised Hammer forces, in Turkey. He also said he would ignore the sanctions against Iraq, sever relations with the International Monetary Fund, and revise the policy on relations with the European Union. He spoke more cautiously on the laicist system of government.

Hence Erbakan questioned the very foundations of Turkey's most basic institutions. He became a spokesman for new ideas, which gradually gained in

strength. The leader of Islamism in Turkey and his party played the role of a seasoned politician in his political negotiations. He proved that not only is he a proponent of Islamism and an Islamic society, but also a shrewd negotiator!

The members of the Welfare Party took an oath in parliament in which they openly endorsed the pledge to act within the laicist system. Erbakan himself announced while he was lobbying for support from the leftist and rightist factions for a coalition government that electioneering stances only pertain to the canvassing period. He said that now that the elections were over, there should be some flexibility in order to be of service to the people!

There is no doubt that the issue of Islamism and the Welfare Party is still in its embryonic stage. It is likely that the Welfare Party will be given some cosmetic portfolios in the cabinet to keep up the appearance of respect for the wishes of the people and the majority party.

However, one basic question remains: Did the Welfare Party suffer a defeat? Undoubtedly the answer is negative. Erbakan was defeated because he assumed the responsibility of forming a government when Turkey has a foreign debt of nearly \$100 billion, an 85 percent inflation rate, and has been embroiled in a civil war for the past 11 years. In addition, the Welfare Party did not have any experience in administering a government with full responsibilities. There is a wide gap between election campaigns and actually grappling with political and economic realities in Turkish society.

Whatever transpired was a triumph for the Welfare Party and will pave the way for its victory in future elections. The votes the Welfare Party received in the municipal elections in the past few years attest to this. In future elections, if Erbakan can win the silence of the Turkish generals, he might have the opportunity to present a relatively modern version of Islamism adapted to Turkey in a more serious manner.

Iranian Security Forces Stop Freedom Movement News Conference

*LD0102095396 Tehran IRNA in English
0929 GMT 1 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran, Feb. 1., IRNA — Freedom Movement Secretary General Ebrahim Yazdi claimed in an interview with morning daily 'IRAN NEWS,' on Thursday [1 February] that the security forces stopped a press conference which was due to be addressed by nine of his colleagues on Wednesday. The Freedom Movement which is not recognized by the

Interior Ministry, is to announce independent candidates for the March 8 elections.

IRAN NEWS quoting Yazdi, wrote that the movement was scheduled to hold a similar press conference on January 17 which was also cancelled because of the security forces objections who said the organization is not recognized by the Interior Ministry.

Yazdi added, "the security forces promised that they would allow the press conference to take place, if the nine persons would do so as individuals and sign a statement to this effect."

More on Iranian Opposition 'Banned' From Holding News Conference

*NC3101222396 Paris AFP in English
1538 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan 31 (AFP) - Iranian authorities on Wednesday prevented for the second time this month a liberal opposition group from holding a press conference to discuss March general elections.

Watched by a dozen secret service agents, the leaders of the Liberation Movement of Iran (LMI), an illegal but tolerated Islamic liberal group, instead met journalists in an empty lot across from the locked building where the meeting was to have been taken place.

"The owner of the building was threatened with reprisals by the authorities if we held this press conference there," said LMI spokesman, Ali Akbar Moïnfar [name as received].

An information ministry official present told AFP the meeting was "banned and would not be held."

The authorities had already prevented the group from holding another press conference on January 10 to announce their decision to take part in the elections.

The movement, headed by former foreign minister Ebrahim Yazdi [name as received], was founded by the late Mehdi Bazargan in the 1960s and espouses liberal democratic views. Bazargan, who died last year, was prime minister in the interim government, which emerged after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The group recognizes in principle the Islamic republic but regards the ruling clergy as "undemocratic."

Visibly nervous, the secret service agents present at the scene tried to prevent the LMI spokesman from addressing the journalists, whose tape-recorders and films were seized.

"You see how the liberty of expression is guaranteed for the election" Moïnfar exclaimed as he tried in vain

to read from a text which said "political openness is the only way to fix the country's problems."

An information ministry official responded that he could talk in "his own name," but not for the LMI.

Those gathered at the scene dispersed without incident after a few minutes of tension as an intelligence officer took repeated pictures of the scene and those present.

Despite an earlier decision not to take part in the polls because of government pressure, the LMI said last week it would field candidates under individual tickets, notably in Tehran.

Iranian leaders have repeatedly announced in the past weeks that the election would be free and fair and called for massive participation.

Former Iranian Deputy Speaker on Rejection of Candidate Credentials

NC0102081196 Tehran SALAM in Persian 14 Jan 96
p 9

[Second and last part of interview with former Deputy Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Asadollah Bayat by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [SALAM] As far as the refusal to state why the credentials of candidates are rejected, the Council of Guardians' argument is that they do not state the reasons because of public considerations and because it is an issue of respecting individuals. But some of the candidates whose credentials have been rejected have themselves requested that the reasons for this rejection be made public. Which side do you believe is right? The Council of Guardians, which speaks about public interests, or the individuals in question?

[Bayat] There are three different aspects to this. In some cases, the Council of Guardians is right and we state what is right, irrespective of our opinions.

If there is a case where an individual has done something wrong which the Council of Guardians has dealt with and the individual insists that the outcome of the Council of Guardians' examinations be publicized and the Council of Guardians insists on not doing so, then the Council of Guardians is right. In some cases we may be dealing with wrongdoings about which Islamic law has special tenets. [passage omitted]

But an interesting point here is that the Council of Guardians in some cases did not even tell the candidates in question what the reasons for rejecting their credentials were. We cannot accept this. We cannot accept the Council of Guardians rejecting the credentials of candidates and then not talking to each one of them

separately about why and not telling the individuals concerned what the reasons for rejection are upon the said individuals' request. This kind of behavior does not conform either with the shariah or with the law. Therefore, when it comes to not revealing the reasons, they are right. When it comes to not making these reasons public they are right. But when it comes to rejecting the request by the individuals concerned, they are acting against the shariah and the law. [passage omitted]

[SALAM] One concern about the people's role in the elections that has always existed is the decrease in their zeal and enthusiasm for participation. Some political personalities and social dignitaries, most of whom follow a specific line of thinking, believe that the conditions do not exist for carrying out one's duty in the sense of proposing candidates or for their own participation as candidates in the elections. This is a worrying situation. Meanwhile, a large number of other people are inflicting pressures out of interest! on these people and asking them why they are neglecting the directives of the Imam, may his soul be sanctified, and are not proposing candidates? The people ask: How can these two stands be made to conform? In your opinion, how can these concerns and problems be assessed and how can the conditions be created for performing such duties?

[Bayat] You should first define duties. Let us assume that we need 270 deputies but we have about 1 million people who meet the qualifications for becoming candidates. Do all these people have to become candidates? No. It is the duty of some to become candidates, and the duty of others to participate in the elections and to vote. I am surprised that there are people who think that it is the duty for everyone who meets the qualifications to become a candidate. [passage omitted]

What do they mean when they say that duties are not being carried out? It is the duty of these gentlemen to defend the system—which they are. It is their duty to encourage the people to participate in the elections—which they are. It is their duty to emphasize weak points to the extent that they will not weaken the system—and they are emphasizing this. They are also talking about the criteria that the people should use when voting. All these are duties. If some think that the duty is only to become a candidate, I say that this is not so. [passage omitted]

Therefore, if we want to speak about duty, let us first deal with the issue of the supervisory council in a correct way. Why have the people whom you have elected as members of this council been directed from the start about what they should do? Why are decisions about the executive officials in charge of the elections made

so rapidly? Why, during the past year, have more than 60 governors general, governors, and other executive officials who are directly involved in the elections been shuffled around? These are the questions that should first be answered.

And then they say that those people whose credentials were rejected can reapply. Well, don't say this from the mouth of the Friday sermon preacher. What a preacher of a Friday sermon says cannot be considered legally binding. The secretary of the Council of Guardians should issue an official circular stating that all those whose credentials were rejected will be treated like everyone else. [passage omitted]

What the preacher of the Friday sermon says is spiritually and morally valuable for society. But it has no legal value. Therefore, since the rejection of credentials is a legal matter, the rejection of a rejection should also be a legal matter. They should officially state this in writing with the signature of the Council of Guardians. Moreover, they should tell us what their view is on practical obligation toward Islam. They should define this. [passage omitted]

Iranian 'Reconstruction' Group To Publish Majles List Soon

LD0102101396 Tehran IRNA in English
2104 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA — One of the members of the new group named 'Khedmatgozaran-e Sazandagi' (those who serve national reconstruction), said here on Wednesday that the group is reviewing a namelist of its nominees for the forthcoming Majles polls. Speaking to IRNA, he said that namelist will be published soon.

He said the group would give priority to nominees with revolutionary background, commitment to the principles and values of the Islamic revolution, moderate political views, and the will to take active part in national reconstruction. He added that the group is trying to choose prominent intellectual and political figures committed to Imam Khomeyni's thoughts.

Militant Clergy Publish List for Tehran Election

LD0102090596 Tehran IRNA in English
0623 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA — Education Minister Mohammad 'Ali Najafi said that from among the group of 16 ministers, vice-presidents and other administrative officials, Khedmatgozaran-e Sazandegi [Servants of Reconstruction], the ministers will not be involved in drawing up the list of candidates for the forthcoming Majles elections.

In an interview with the English-daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' on Thursday the minister, who himself is a signatory to the two statements of the group, however, added that the list of the group will be prepared and presented by other members of the groups, with the exception of the ministers.

"Signatories to the statements issued by Khedmatgozaran-e Sazandegi are to go ahead with their presence in the election scene, encouraging the nation to take part in the parliamentary elections slated for March 8," he added. According to the minister the debate of the group at present is primarily focused on the elections for the fifth Majles.

Meanwhile as the elections for the 270-seat Majles draws near, major political groups and factions are concentrating on their list of candidates.

The elections headquarters started taking in applications on Wednesday and so far nearly 2,000 nominees have registered, whose credentials and eligibility must be assessed by special teams of experts before they can run in the elections. The Iranian capital of Tehran with 30 seats in the Majles is one of the main areas of elections activities and campaign and, therefore, most groups are counting heavily on the Tehran constituency.

TEHRAN TIMES on Wednesday quoted an informed source as saying that Jameh-ye Rowhaniyat-e Mobarez (JRM) [Militant Clergy Association] of Tehran, has completed its list of candidates for Tehran constituency and is to produce it shortly. "The JRM's candidates' list has been finalized and there will be no change in their nominee's list," the source said.

The English-language paper printed the list of the 30, among them Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri, Vice-Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rowhani and Mohammad Javad Larijani.

The following is the list of the candidates as printed by TEHRAN TIMES. The first 6 are new candidates for Tehran constituency and the remaining are presently Tehran deputies in the Majles:

- Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdol-Hoseyn Mo'ezzi, former director of the supreme leader's public relations office.
- Hojjat ol-Eslam Reza Akrami, Semnan deputy in Majles
- Asadollah Badamchian, advisor to judiciary head
- Mohammad Asghari, former leader's representative in Kayhan Institute
- Musa Zargar, former health minister
- Davud Danesh Jafari
- Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri
- Hojjat ol-Eslam Movahedi Kermani, Majles vice-speaker

—Mrs. Maryam Behruzi
—Mrs. Marziyeh Vahid Dastjerdi
—Mrs. Nafiseh Fayazbakhsh
—Mrs. Monireh Nobakht
—Mrs. Parvin Salihi
—Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rowhani
—Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohsen Mojtahed Shabestari, Tabriz Friday prayer leader, leader's representative in East Azarbaijan
—Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hoseyni
—Hojjat ol-Eslam Reza Taqavi
—Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Torabi, leader's representative in pows affairs
—Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Movahedi Savoji
—Hojjat ol-Eslam Qorban 'Ali Dorri Najafabadi
—Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahmud Doa'i, leader's representative in ETTELA'AT publications
—Habibollah Asgar Owladi, former commerce minister
—Mohammad Javad Larijani, former deputy foreign minister
—Mohammad Reza Bahonar
—Morteza Nabavi
—'Abbas Sheybani, former agriculture minister
—Mohsen Yahyavi, former acting housing minister
—'Ali Naqi Khamushi, head of chamber of commerce
—Shahaboddin Sadr
—'Ali 'Abbas-Pur Tehrani-Fard

According to the source, absent in the JRM's latest list are: Mahmud Saber, Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani, Mohammad Hashem Rahbari, Mohammad Kazem Seyfian, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Ghayori Najafabadi and Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abbas 'Ali Amid Zanjani. All the six, serving in the present term of Majles, were JRM's candidates for the fourth Majles.

Efforts To 'Discourage' Iranians Against Elections Condemned

NC0102103096 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
17 Jan 96 p 2

[Commentary by Hoseyn Shari'atmadari: "The Right of the People"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although the people's participation in the elections is referred to as "a duty," as very wisely stated by the esteemed leader in his remarks yesterday, this is not an imposed duty like various other duties, but is rather a call on the people to safeguard their own interests. Therefore, when we speak about the people's active presence in the elections, it is nothing but advice to the people to pursue one of their rights. This point is as natural as it is subtle and precise because, on the one hand, the Majles is "the essence of the nation" and one of the most major legislative organs and, on

the other, it is a matter of the policy on the management of the country's affairs. Therefore, participation in the elections is participation in the determination of fate, and the people's involvement in determining their own fate is their definite and natural right.

If we regard the need for active participation in the Majles elections from this angle, which is a realistic one, we will certainly reach the clear and logical conclusion that those people who prevent the public from participating in the Majles are actually trampling on the people's rights and are calling on the people to be indifferent toward their own fate.

We are not referring to those who are overtly preventing the people from participating in the elections because they are very few in number. Not only do they lack any bases among the people, but a brief glance at their record and performance clearly shows that they have always been "removed from the people." And in this popular scene, if they are saying things or writing things, they are actually "damaging their own reputation" without "inconveniencing us." But there are those who have a clear record in the revolution and have been known to be sympathetic and well-intentioned toward the people. There are also those who are "comrades" but who unfortunately and unknowingly say and write things that are like what "foreigners" say and write.

These people are aware of the need for the people's active and extensive participation in the elections and are aware of the people's role in determining the fate of the nation. Therefore, their writings and sayings, which will possibly discourage some people, cannot be justifiable because participation in the elections is not only the people's duty but their definite right. And any step by anyone that discourages this participation is tantamount to trampling on the people's rights. And naturally this "outcome" is contrary to patriotic and justice-seeking allegations.

Former Iranian MP: More Groups Mean More Efficient Fifth Majles

LD3101175396 Tehran IRNA in English
1740 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Holy Qom, Jan. 31, IRNA — Former member of parliament [MP], Hojjat ol-Eslam Asadollah Bayat, said here today that if the goals of the new group 'Kargozaran-e Nizam' (officials of the system) were serious regarding the election campaign, then the fifth Majles would enjoy more efficiency in view of the presence of different groups.

He said with the entry on the election scene of the 16 senior government officials who make up the above

group, the current wing dominating the parliament was likely to loose its hold in the next Majles.

The 16 senior officials include ministers, presidential deputies, the central bank governor and the Tehran mayor.

Iran Daily Criticizes Candidates' 'Empty' Campaign Promises

NC0102085996 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
16 Jan 96 p 2

[Commentary by Hoseyn Shari'atmadari: "Campaign Promises"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Although the esteemed Majles deputies have different constituents and are voted into the Majles by the people in their constituencies, they have responsibilities that go beyond them. [passage omitted]

Despite the written laws that define these responsibilities, an unwritten law also exists which should be described as a "calamity". During the campaign, some of the candidates promise the people that they will build bridges, dams, universities, roads, railways, factories, and so on in order to gain more votes. First of all, such activities fall under the jurisdiction of ministries and of other official organs and have nothing to do with the Majles. Second, the organizations and institutions that can implement such projects can do so only on the basis of long-term development plans. Unfortunately, such baseless promises continue to be made by some deputies even after the campaigns. [passage omitted]

The evidence of such baseless and illogical promises can already be seen in the campaigns of some candidates. This method is especially visible in the towns. In order to confront this situation, on the one hand, the people should be alert. On the other, the mass media can play a constructive role by clearly defining what a deputy's duties are and thus help the people tell right from wrong in the heat of the campaign. And finally, it should be noted that if those candidates who make such baseless promises during the campaign do so because they are unaware of the legal procedures needed to fulfill such promises, their credentials for entering the Majles should be doubted because of their weak outlook and their lack of social and political knowledge. And if there are candidates who are well aware of how affairs are run and still make such promises in a bid to fool the public, their credentials should also be questioned. There is no third alternative.

Iran Majles Speaker Describes Added Note to Final Budget Bill

LD3101172796 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] After today's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles and the final reading of the the 1375 budget bill [year commencing 20 March 1996], Majles speaker Nateq-Nuri described the particularities and the main issues of the country's next year budget in an inclusive interview with our correspondent.

[Begin Nateq-Nuri recording] Fortunately, since in recent years the budget has been based on the [Development] Plan, all the planned policies are taken into account in the budgets. That includes [sentence unfinished as heard] As you know, the second Five-Year [Development] Plan is based on making agriculture axial according to the guidelines of the exalted leader [Khamene'i], and that is still so. Therefore in the budget bill the government and the Majles took that into account. To help employed and retired staff, a 68th note was added to the bill so that through various means the necessary goods and essential commodities are put at their disposal, their family allowances are increased in 1375, and their child allowance is increased.

The ceiling of bank credits was limited in the second note of the budget bill in order to somehow control the growth of cash flow and inflation. That is because more cash flow creates inflation and its control can somehow stem inflation. [end recording]

Iran's President Calls For Elimination of Poverty From Society

LD3101205696 Tehran IRNA in English
1915 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA — President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today asked the planning and budget organization to draft a programme to eliminate poverty from the Iranian society.

During a four-hour inspection visit to the offices of the planning and budget organization, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said that it was not acceptable for a country wealthy in natural resources and strategically placed, to see part of the people living below the poverty line.

He said the first development plan has changed the face of the country and now Iran is procuring a major part of its necessities from domestic sources.

The president felt confident that the second 5-year development plan (1995-2000) would drastically change for the better the face of the country.

The plans carried out by westerners in the name of development during the monarchial regime, he regretted, brought nothing except the plundering of the natural sources and destruction of the environment.

Rafsanjani said: "On the occasion of the 17th anniversary of triumph of the Islamic revolution, a comprehensive programme should be made to eliminate poverty from Iranian society. The campaign against poverty should be amended in the second five-year development plan." Earlier, the head of the planning and budget organization, Hamid Mirzadeh, offered a report of the activities of the organization to the president and said it is matter of pride that today all major projects in the country are being carried out by Iranian experts without the involvement of foreigners.

Nationwide Ceremonies Mark Iranian Revolution Anniversary

LD0102094996 Tehran IRNA in English
0822 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA — The nationwide ceremonies marking the 17th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran started at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, the time the late Imam Khomeyni stepped on the Iranian soil, on February 1, 1979, after 15 years in exile.

In Tehran the ceremonies started at the late imam's mausoleum, southern Tehran, with thousands of lovers of the late imam and the revolution chanting Allah-o-Akbar (God is the Greatest), the enthusiast visitors had spent the whole night at imam's shrine.

At 9:30 throughout the country the trains and ships whistled and blew their horns, the churches and schools tolled their bells, and some 18 million schoolgoers cried Allah-o-Akbar.

The army helicopters showered the road that the late founder of the Islamic Republic took from the Tehran International Mehrabad Airport to the martyrs' cemetery upon his arrival, with flowers. Helicopters dropped hundreds upon hundreds of flowers on the late imam's mausoleum and the tombs of martyrs at Behesht-e Zahra cemetery.

Early on Thursday morning, thousands of Iranian people from all walks of life, the martyrs' families, the devotees and war-disabled veterans, government officials and the commanders of the armed forces arrived at the mausoleum of the founder of the Islamic revolution to commemorate the glorious return of the late leader to his homeland.

The highway from Behesht-e Zahra cemetery to the holy mausoleum is decked with the Iranian national flags,

colorful lights, and placards with words by the leader of the Islamic revolution and the late Imam Khomeyni, attracting the attention of the passers-by.

Khamene'i Praises Khomeyni on Anniversary of Revolution

LD0102094696 Tehran IRNA in English
0722 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA — On the 17th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution and the return of the late Imam Khomeyni to Iran, the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i Thursday morning paid homage to the late leader at his mausoleum.

At the mausoleum, in southern Tehran, the leader prayed for yet further exaltation of the late founder of Islamic Republic's soul in his eternal abode, the divine paradise.

The supreme leader also paid tribute to the late leader's deceased son, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni.

Attending the Behesht-e Zahra martyrs' cemetery, Ayatollah Khamene'i commemorated those martyred in the course of the Islamic revolution and the Iraqi-imposed war against Iran, the martyrs Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti, Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i and Mohammad Javad Bahrani and the 72 government officials martyred in an explosion in the Tehran headquarters of the Islamic Republic Party, as well as the late Ayatollah Mahmud Taleghani.

Iran's Rafsanjani Speaks on Revolution Anniversary

LD0102123596 Tehran IRNA in English
1104 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, irna — Addressing a huge gathering at late Imam Khomeyni's mausoleum, in southern Tehran, President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the return of the late imam to Iran as one of the unprecedented events in the recent history of mankind.

Further in his speech, the president of the Islamic Republic told the audience, including the foreign diplomatic corps, government officials and army commanders, that the historians, writers and researchers should probe the historical features of this prominent day and make public all aspects and details of the great event.

By doing so, he added, "this great historical honor will be prevented from falling into oblivion."

Turning to the characteristics of the late founder of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, the president said that the late imam had no equal in the history of Islam

with the exception of the holy prophet (pbuh) and the infallibles of his household (as) .

The Iranian nation should be thankful to the almighty God that one of the most efficient and capable followers of the late imam has taken over the leadership of the Islamic revolution.

The president added that at a time when everything was under the control of the tyrannical regime, many regarded the late imam's intention to return home as a political maneuver. Describing the events which took place 17 years ago this day, President Rafsanjani noted that Imam Khomeyni's presence in Tehran was tantamount to overthrow of the shah's rule. He stressed that such a significant development in the Iranian history raised extraordinary expectations on the part of the international observers.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani went on to say that the moment the late leader set foot on the Iranian soil, "we were only counting on the people as the army of God, who had flooded the streets."

Turning to the devout followers of the founder of the Islamic Republic, President Rafsanjani said that leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i has never neglected Islam and the revolution, even for a single moment. He added that only those know the leader well who were with him during the period of earnest struggle against the despotic and tyrannical rule.

Referring to the role of the late imam's deceased son, Hojjat ol-Islam Ahmad Khomeyni, in the course of the Islamic revolution, President Rafsanjani said that he was a strong and clever advisor to the late leader, acting as the arm of the revolution.

Elsewhere in his speech, the president said that, thanks to guidelines of the leader and concerted efforts of the authorities and the people, "today, we have a prosperous, free, and independent Iran. No country in the world can say that it is as sovereign as Iran, and the manifestation of freedom in Iran cannot be compared to any other country. The freest people of the world live under the sky of Iran," he told the gathering.

Rafsanjani, in conclusion, paid glowing tributes to the services of those who fought off the Iraqi aggression, saying that devotion and commitment are the key factors adding to the strength and might of the Islamic Republic. "If now the country is turned into a gigantic site of construction, it is due to this devotion and commitment."

Pakistan

Pakistan Deports Suspect in Riyadh Barracks Bombing to Saudi Arabia

BK0102093496 Islamabad THE NATION in English
1 Feb 96 p 1

[Report by Abdul Sattar Khan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore — Hassan A H Alsarai, a Saudi national, arrested by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), after a week's hectic effort, for his alleged involvement in the deadly blast in the US army's barracks in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, last November, is being deported to Saudi Arabia today (Thursday) by a special Saudi plane.

A high powered delegation comprising high officials of FIA, ISI [Inter-Service Intelligence] and Intelligence Bureau (IB) headed by the Interior Minister Gen. (retd) Naweerullah Babar, discussed the matter with the Saudi officials when they visited Saudi Arabia in the first week of January.

The Saudi officials had provided the name 'Hassan' along with his photograph and that he was in Pakistan since 1990 and also that he frequently visited Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan and Kashmir, where he is said have to been participating in the Jihad.

Toeing 'blind information' the FIA found a clue from the immigration records of Lahore airport as Hassan Alsarai. FIA traced his residential address in Renala Khurd, district Okara, where he is married to the sister of one Hafizur Rehman, Nazim of Jamaat Ahle Hadith, Renala Khurd.

The officials, accompanying the alleged terrorist are: deputy director Immigration, Ahmed Riaz Sheikh (who supervised the entire operation) Raja Manzoor Elahi, deputy director Immigration headquarters, Chaudhry Fazal Hussain in-charge of the Special Investigative Unit (SIU) of the FIA, Assistant Director Saijad Mustafa Bajwa (who participated in several raids conducted by the FIA for the arrest of Hassan) and few others.

Markaz Dawat-ul-Irshad, when contacted, denied the involvement of any of its office-bearer or worker in sabotage activities inside or outside the country.

Pakistani Spokesman Rejects Indian Allegations About Firing

BK0102124496 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 1200 GMT 1 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan has told India that the Line of Control (LOC) in Kashmir cannot be altered under the Simla agreement, and the construction of

a fence there is not acceptable. Answering reporter's questions at a news briefing in Islamabad, a Foreign Office spokesman said that any construction like the so-called fencing is tantamount to altering the status of the LOC and also constitutes a violation of this line.

Concerning Indian allegations about firing by Pakistani troops, the spokesman said India wants to divert people's attention by making such accusations and to cover up internal problems, like the scandal involving illegal money transfers. He said the Pakistani troops fire only when they are fired at first from the Indian side.

Answering a question about the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the spokesman said Pakistan sincerely desires to see this treaty finalized as soon as possible.

Pakistani Minister Briefs Kashmir Committee on 'Indian Attack'

BK3101144896 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kashmir committee of the parliament, which met in Islamabad today under the chairmanship of Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, reviewed the situation arising in the face of the Indian attack in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, briefed the committee about Pakistan's response to the attack on forward Kahuta and the current situation on the Line of Control. He assured that the government would be fully vigilant to the situation and take all possible measures to protect the country against any Indian aggression.

The Kashmir committee condemned the Indian rocket attack on forward Kahuta near Line of Control. The chairman of the committee, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, on this occasion, said that it was a planned aggression by India as the rockets targeted people praying in a mosque on Friday to inflict maximum loss of life. The committee, which has prepared a comprehensive program to stage a countrywide strike on the 5th of next month, has asked the people to fully participate in the demonstration to show their solidarity with Kashmiris, who are fighting for their right of self-determination.

Pakistan: Two Sudanese Held in Egyptian Embassy Blast Case

BK0102062796 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 1 Feb 96 p 5

[Article by Ismail Khan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar — Investigators have picked up two Sudanese for interrogations in connection with the suicidal bombing attack on the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad.

A senior police investigator whose agency arrested the two Sudanese, Muhammad Ali Syed and Bashir Babar Qadim, from Faisalabad last week said that they were being interrogated in Islamabad by an investigation committee headed by the inspector general of police, Islamabad and comprised officials from the Federal Investigation Agency and Islamabad police. The two Sudanese were teachers at Ummul Qura', a religious educational institution at Chakdara, Dir in Malakand Agency funded by the Saudi Red Crescent and had resigned their posts to take up their new assignments at Maajid Muqqadas Ahle Hadith, a madrasa in Faisalabad. An official of the Saudi Red Crescent confirmed the two Sudanese had been their employees but did not give any details.

What appeared a coincidence, the official said, turned out to be a major lead which might help investigators in tracking down the real culprits behind the November 19 bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad that killed eighteen people and wounded 80 others. The mighty explosion caused by a suicidal bomber who rammed his explosives-loaded vehicle into the chancery killed among others nine embassy staffers, seven of them Egyptians, Press Counsellor Hesham and Second Secretary Ahmad Nomir Khalid.

The official said the timing of their resignation on November 14, just a week before the explosion prompted investigators to pick on their trail. A photograph of Muhammad Ali Syed Ahmad sent in for identification to the car-dealers in Rawalpindi was identified as the one who purchased the vehicle used in the bombing incident. "It was a lucky break", the official said.

However, an official associated with the probe and interrogation in Islamabad said subsequent identification parade held a few day ago did not produce any results. "We haven't lost heart. We are after it", the official remarked.

The police investigator said Muhammad Ali was said to be an explosive expert and was believed to have received training at Abu-Bakr camp at Khost in Afghanistan. The camp, he said, was abode to around 60 Arabs, almost from all Arab states, who were imparted training in guerrilla warfare. Abu-Bakr is said to be among the four other training camps for Arabs operating in Khost, Jali and Jalalabad in Afghanistan.

Significantly, Federal Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar had earlier claimed to have arrested the mastermind or financier behind the embassy bombing. Ahmad Saeed, regional director of Human Concern International, a Canadian relief agency was picked up by police in Peshawar, reportedly while sneaking

through the Pak-Afghan border. Investigators now believe Saeed did not directly finance the suicidal bombing but siphoned off part of the money for his agency to the training camp exclusively run by the Egyptian Al-Jehad group in Afghanistan.

Pakistan: Four Companies Withdraw From Pipeline Project With Iran

*BK2901123896 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
29 Jan 96 p 12*

[Staff report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Jan 28 —The government is considering alternative ways to build-Pak-Iran gas pipelines as, four out of the five international firms have backed out succumbing to foreign pressure, it was learnt on Sunday, through official sources.

For the said pipeline, a proposed joint venture between Pakistan and Iran to transport petroleum gas from Iran to Pakistan, international tenders were invited. Five international companies showed interest in the project.

The Government of Pakistan set November 30 as the last date as none of the important companies responded, the government was forced to extend the date for another 10 days. On December 12, only one company Broken Hill Properties, BHP, maintained its interest in the project.

All other short listed companies including Shell, Petronas, Trans Canada and Gas de France changed mind under the US pressure according to official sources.

The reason that BHP of Australia maintained its interest was its involvement in Qadirpur oil and gas field.

In this situation government is seriously thinking to work on another proposed plan. The proposed plan is different in a way from the old plan as it has broken down the responsibilities. Under the said plan, Iran will build the pipeline up to the Pakistani border and to build and extend the pipeline into Pakistan and beyond will be the responsibility of Pakistan.

The original plan of building the pipeline by a single company had faced difficulties because of the US move to ostracize Iran.

Pakistan Assures Delhi Iranian Pipeline Not To Be Blocked

*BK3101094596 Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER
in English 30 Jan 96 p 1, 18*

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi — Pakistan has assured New Delhi it would not interfere with the

delivery of oil and gas to India through a proposed pipeline on its territory, Pakistani Oil Minister Anwar Saifullah said on Monday.

"Pakistan has expressed full assurance of non-interference in any oil and gas pipeline passing through Pakistan to India," Saifullah told a natural gas conference in the Indian capital.

India is considering importing natural gas from Iran, using a pipeline which could pass through Pakistan. Experts from India and Iran are studying the proposal to determine whether the proposed pipeline would pass through Pakistani territory or skirt India's western neighbour by being built offshore.

Tensions between India and Pakistan have risen since Islamabad said a rocket fired by Indian troops hit worshipers in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir on Friday, killing 20 people.

India has denied the charge.

Meanwhile, Iran is seeking a joint assurance of noninterference from India and Pakistan in the delivery of oil and gas through a proposed Indo-Iranian pipeline, an official of the National Iranian Gas Company said on Monday.

"With huge investments involved I would expect both India and Pakistan to give a joint assurance to protect those investments," director of international affairs R.R. Sani told Reuters.

Sani is in New Delhi to take part in a three-day oil and gas conference focusing on South Asia.

India is considering importing natural gas from Iran, using a pipeline which could pass through Pakistan. The total cost of the project is likely to be around \$3.0 billion, Sani said.

"Normally, those who are investing in the pipeline would like to have some sort of guarantees and assurances from the respective governments," Sani said.

India and Iran signed a memorandum of understanding in November 1993 to undertake a feasibility study for the pipeline.

Pakistan's Oil Minister Saifullah Khan said on Monday his government would not interfere with the delivery of oil and gas through the pipeline.

Sani, an appointee of the Iranian Government, said Iran would like to play "a dynamic role to pave the way for creating a suitable political environment between the two countries to promote the pipeline project. He did not spell out what his governments' role [sentence as published]

**Iran Seeks Pakistan's Help in Trade Problems
Caused by U.S. Sanctions**

BK3101104496 Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER
in English 30 Jan 96 p 20

[Article by Iqbal Mirza: "Iran Seeks Pak Traders' Help
To Face U.S. Sanctions"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — Since the United States "has resorted to imposing economic sanctions on Iran," the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines (ICCIM) has approached trade bodies in the private sector in Pakistan drawing attention to an "unprecedented problem" which has arisen in the area of its international trade and asked them to take initiatives which may lead to resolving this problem.

Alinaghi Seyed Khamoushi, president of ICCIM and chairman of Iranian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in a letter, dated Jan 21, has pointed out that the economic sanctions imposed by the United States against Iran for political ends, have not only affected the commercial relations between the two countries, "but have created problems for Iran's commercial transactions with other countries". Khamoushi said that the U.S. Government has ordered the U.S. banks and their branches in other countries to stop providing the usual banking services to Iran, Iranian nationals and those other nationals residing in Iran.

Since all transactions in dollar must go through the New York clearing house, the payments in dollars by or to the Iranian nationals have practically become impossible. The fact that majority of international transactions are based on dollar will now cause the transactions with Iran to stop.

In addition, the U.S. Government intends to make any company, which provides technical services to Iran's oil industry, regardless of company's nationality, subject to sanctions, he said.

The letter said that as the representative of Iran's private sector, ICCIM would like to impress upon all those active in international commerce, and the organizations and authorities working to ensure the freedom of engaging in international commerce for all nations:

That even though the U.S. aim in imposing the sanctions is apparently to apply political pressure on the Government of Iran, the definite side effects of such policy will be the infringement of the rights and interests of Iran's private sector which has, in recent years, gradually extended the scope of its international activities.

That because of the U.S. Government's action, the businessmen of the countries interested in trading with Iran will suffer a direct loss. This is contrary to the

accepted principles of international commerce that a government pursuing its political intentions in relations to a particular country, will behave in such a way as to jeopardise the interests of the nationals of other countries.

That if applying economic pressures to achieve political ends becomes common practice in international commerce and if the business community with its silence prepares the ground for the recurrence of such behaviour, it is certain that the international commerce will face a doomed fate in near future.

While the world public opinion is interested in and believes in the worldwide freedom of commerce, particularly among the Third World countries, and considering the fact that this interest and belief led to the vast and persistent efforts to establish GATT which is expected to ensure the proper freedom of international commerce in the framework of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) the actions of the U.S. Government, will finally defeat all those efforts and doom the final fate of the WTO.

"We might see some day that this newly born organization, with so much hope invested in it, will go astray because of political pressures, and join the long list of other useless and powerless international organizations", Khamoushi said in his letter. He has asked heads of all trade bodies in Pakistan to do all in their power to inform local and international authorities with whom they have come in contact and call their attention to the seriousness of the problem.

Similar letters have also been written to all the private sector trade bodies all over the world.

**Pakistani Editorial Lauds New U.S. Ambassador's
Views on Islam**

BK3101145496 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 31 Jan 96
p 10

[Editorial: "U.S. Ambassador's Statement—A Positive Change in Views About Islam?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The views that newly appointed U.S. Ambassador Thomas Simmons has expressed since taking charge in Pakistan regarding Pakistan-U.S. relations and relations between the United States and the Islamic world are generally positive. It gives an impression that he has a better knowledge of the role of Islam than his predecessors and that his viewpoint is also positive. This is quite encouraging because the U.S. ambassador, as a representative of the only superpower, enjoys an important position in any case. If the U.S. ambassador holds positive and constructive views, we can expect it will have a positive influence.

Ambassador Simmons' remarks that he is happy that he arrived in Pakistan during the sacred month of Ramadan proves that he has a better understanding of the sentiments of the people of Pakistan. The ambassador also expressed the hope that there will be new warmth in relations between Pakistan and the United States following the approval of the Brown amendment.

A statement he made that particularly deserves appreciation is that the United States and the Muslim Ummah are natural allies and that both forces can cooperate with each other in making efforts by the human race to develop a better world successful. Unfortunately, over the past 10 or 15 years, the United States has declared so-called Islamic fundamentalism a threat to Western civilization and human values. Since the Iranian Revolution in 1979, the United States has laid great emphasis on condemning Islamic terrorism and extremism without giving any thought to whether this campaign has any justification. Particularly after the end of the Cold War, the West and the United States started viewing Islamic fundamentalism as a great danger, instead of communism; Islamic fundamentalism has now been declared the main enemy. Various circles in the Islamic world have criticized the West's erroneous view of Islam; in general, however, the West has not adopted any positive views about Islam. Recently, however, a desire to understand Islam seems to be emerging in the West, and it is being said that it is not a correct or scholarly attitude to create an opinion about Islam without any understanding.

A prominent example of this is a speech by the U.S. first lady at the end of her visit to South Asia in which she stressed the need to study Islam more closely. She also said that she and President Clinton's daughter are also studying Islam. Recent opinion polls in the United States have revealed that many people in the United States believe that they have very little knowledge about Islam, so they are not in a position to express an opinion on the teaching or on the possibility of Islam's international role.

Admission of this ignorance is far better than the policy under which the United States continually declared the Islamic world extremist and terrorist and presumed, without any investigation, that any incident of terrorism had been carried out by some Muslim individual or organization. That is why almost all the countries that have been declared terrorist states by the United States are Muslim countries.

It seems, however, that the policy of viewing Islam and terrorism as synonyms is now changing. A commendable expression of this policy came through an interview

with the new U.S. ambassador by Pakistan television. His remarks that Pakistan and the United States are natural allies in the struggle for the formation of a better world depicts an important positive change in U.S. policy. We are not in a position to say whether these are the ambassador's personal views or whether his government also thinks the same way.

Even if it is his personal view, its significance and importance cannot be ignored because it shows that Western people have started to realize the need for a better understanding of Islam, whether or not Western governments have adopted a positive view. So the trend of declaring the followers of Islam terrorists without any proper investigation is on the decline.

Recently, U.S. citizens were asked to give their opinion regarding the greatest dangers to the world: 72 percent said it was the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the immigration of people from the Third World to the West; 69 percent considered international terrorism the greatest threat, while only 6 percent said that Islam and terrorism were equivalent to each other. This is an encouraging development. In fact, Islam is a peace-loving religion, and it preaches peace and security at every level. Let us hope that the attitude of Western people toward Islam will continue changing as they come to know more and more about it.

The new U.S. ambassador to Pakistan maintains a constructive view, and we hope that he will make all his decisions during his stay in Pakistan in light of his positive view of Islam. We also hope that he will try to transform the old friendship between the United States and Pakistan that he has talked about into a reality in the new era. The attitude of the United States towards Pakistan needs a lot of improvement. If Pakistani-U.S. relations improve during Ambassador Simmons' stay in Pakistan, he will definitely get the credit.

Pakistan Editorial: Islamic Unity Urged To Counter India's 'Hindu Imperialism'

*BK3101153096 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu
30 Jan 96 p 4*

[Editorial: "The Danger of Hindu Dominance and the Responsibility of Pakistan and the Islamic World"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Farooq Leghari has said that Pakistan will respond to India's recent rocket attacks; however, there is no danger of a war. Meanwhile, press reports say that a meeting between the president, the prime minister, and the army chief was held at the President House to discuss India's aggressive preparations. Ahmad Kamal, Pakistani envoy at the United Nations, has apprised Secretary General Butrus-Ghali of the increasing tension on the subcontinent.

Army Chief General Jahangir Karamat has said that the Armed Forces are ready to defend the frontiers. Opposition leader Mian Nawaz Sharif has also reaffirmed his position that the India's Prithvi missile test constitutes a grave threat to peace in the region. India should know that the whole nation is united, and we will defeat India in an exemplary fashion in the case of any aggression.

There is no doubt that India's missile program and nuclear weapons production pose a great danger to Pakistan's security. Despite this, the Government of Pakistan at all levels continues to harp that there is no danger of a war. Only God knows who has convinced our leaders to continue in their deep sleep. If India does not foster any aggressive intentions, the question then is why is it ignoring worldwide pressure and insisting on a second nuclear explosion and missile tests? Why has it deployed nearly 500 Prithvi missiles along Pakistan's border? Which country does India want to eliminate from this region, and which country is its traditional enemy, against whom it has repeatedly carried out aggression? Are Pakistani cities not within the range of Indian missiles? Our president has already said that Indian missiles can reach all Pakistani cities except Quetta.

The reality is that ignoring the Indian threat is, God forbid, synonymous with relinquishing our independence. The Indian missiles can target not only Pakistan but also countries beyond it, such as Iran, Afghanistan, Kuwait, the Gulf countries, Saudi Arabia and other Arab states. The Prithvi has a range of 150 to 200 km, the Agni a range of 2000 to 2500 km, and the Agni-II a range of 4500 km; the Surya missile is capable of hitting targets 12,000 to 20,000 km away. This should serve as an eye-opener to Pakistan's neighbors as well. Iran, in particular, should remain alert, as it is vulnerable to a direct Indian missile hit.

Unfortunately, instead of realizing the Indian threat, Tehran Radio in its commentary the other day advised Pakistan to avoid a war with India, saying that it is a U.S. conspiracy to ignite tension on the subcontinent and engage Pakistan and India in a war. Who is going to make Iran understand that India's long-range missiles, which are capable of hitting targets thousand of miles away, could cross over Pakistan and hit Iran, the Gulf countries, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and other Islamic countries? Given this danger, it is the duty of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to convene an extraordinary meeting to discuss the implications of the Indian missile program and to devise a joint defense strategy.

If the Islamic world views the matter only from the Pakistani-Indian perspective, then it will only be invit-

ing great danger. It is the duty of the Iranian brethren to focus their attention on the Hindu-Muslim riots in India. If they do, they will find that Hindu fanatics target Sunni Muslims, and they do not distinguish between Arab and non-Arab Muslims. In Kashmir, 600,000 Indian soldiers are playing a game with the blood of Muslims and are disgracing the dignity of our mothers, sisters, and daughters. They do not distinguish between the faction, color, or race of the Muslims. The crafty Hindus are enemies of Muslims, and Pakistan is the first, not the last, hurdle to the fulfillment of their desire. The Islamic world should also know that, after the defeat and disintegration of the Soviet Union, its protégé—India—is now obsessed with the desire to dominate the Islamic world. The establishment of a "Ram Raj" or Hindu empire is its first and final objective. The Islamic world needs to shun its insensitivity, awake from its deep sleep, and seriously devise a plan for the Islamic community's collective defense. If India is against the Islamic world, then it is the duty of the Islamic community to forge unity among its ranks, to pool its resources, and to turn itself into an impregnable fortress to counter the threat of Hindu imperialism.

Pakistani Minister Confident of Ability To Thwart 'Aggression'

*BK0102065196 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in English 0300 GMT 1 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharal, has said the government is fully capable of thwarting any internal and external aggression. In a press statement in Islamabad yesterday, he said the government of Pakistan through its aggressive diplomacy has frustrated the evil designs of anti-Pakistan forces. The information minister also said that the opposition leader should not claim popularity of his group in Sindh after failure in Sagar by-elections. He said he was also losing popularity in the Punjab, Balochistan, and the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province].

The federal minister of petroleum and natural resources, Mr. Anwar Saifullah Khan, has said that Pakistan is exerting diplomatic pressure on India for an early solution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the United Nations resolutions. On his return to Islamabad from New Delhi yesterday, he told newsmen that Pakistan has the ability to retaliate any aggression and it did not stand alone in the world today. Regarding his participation in world conference on gas in India, he said the national interest will be taken care of in a proper manner.

Pakistani Opposition Meets To Discuss Mass Resignations

*BK0102104496 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
1 Feb 96 p 1,10*

[Report by THE NEWS correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore — PML-N [Pakistan Muslim League- Nawaz] and its allied opposition parties, in a meeting of their legislators and office bearers on Wednesday resolved to make 1996 the year of change of government and agreed to decide the issues of en masse resignations and street agitation in a meeting of the opposition supreme council to be called before February 10.

The meeting was chaired by PML-N leader Mian Nawaz Sharif and was attended by about half the opposition's strength in the National Assembly, several senators, members of provincial assemblies and party office bearers 123 persons in all.

ANP [Awami National Party] JAH [Jamaat-i-Ahl-i-Hadith] amir Prof. Sajid Mir and JUP [Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan] MPA [member of provincial assembly] Sahibzada Fazal Karim headed their party delegations. Nawaz Sharif's press secretary Siddiqui Farooq afterwards briefed newsmen on the details of the meeting.

It was decided that the allied opposition parties, in pursuance of their objective to bring about a change in the year 1996, would convene meetings of their parties' organizations down to the tehsil level after Eid to take their cadres into confidence. The date of these meetings would be announced by PML-N secretary general Senator Sartaj Aziz.

The meeting on Wednesday also approved in principle the final draft of the oppositions's Kashmir policy, the details of which are to be released shortly.

According to Siddiqui Farooq, a couple of legislators said President Farooq Leghari would not be supported by PML-N and allied parties for a second term, but others believed that he should be supported in case he proved his ability to act independently in the interests of the nation.

Mian Nawaz Sharif insisted on greater dialogue within the opposition and without in order to pave the way for a change through unanimous approval. Farooq said ANP chief Khattak proposed his formula for bringing about a change "which would be considered by the opposition supreme council."

The meeting also expressed concern over the policies of the government. Three resolutions passed on the occasion condemned India for attacking villages in Azad Kashmir and for the test of its Prithvi missile.

expressed support for the cause of Kashmiris, castigated the government's failure to control law and order in the country especially in Sindh and condemned what it called 'state terrorism' in Karachi and Hyderabad, expressed concern over the economic situation in the country and blamed the government for economic mismanagement and financial indiscipline.

The meeting reiterated its opposition to trade with India, saying any trade links in the present situation were unjustified and condemned the federal petroleum minister's statement vowing to allow the laying of a gas pipeline for India using Pakistani soil.

Mian Nawaz Sharif in his address on the occasion emphasised the need for consultation and dialogue. Claiming that the government had launched a propaganda campaign to misguide the people about his meeting with Altaf Hussain, Mian Nawaz said he had always opposed the division of Sindh and had met the MQM chief to avoid isolating a particular community.

He said the people of the country would always stand by him in his efforts to prevent a repeat of the 1971 tragedy. According to him, Benazir Bhutto had been fueling "the fire of ethnicity and provincialism" and sought to divide the province of Sindh.

"What is needed is to pave the way for love and friendship in Sindh and we will be the bridge between rural and urban Sindh," he added. He said no national institution barring the Army had been spared by the government's campaign to destroy every pillar of the state. According to him, the government had itself caused the severe law and order crisis in the country as a whole.

He said the opposition had itself urged the government to hold a dialogue with MQM for the solution of the Karachi problem and had sincerely wished that an agreement be reached between the two sides, "but the government deliberately sabotaged the talks."

Pakistan: Punjab Chief Blames PML-Nawaz Faction for Recent Blasts

*BK3101014696 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in English 1600 GMT 30 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Punjab chief minister, Sardar Arif Nakai, has blamed Pakistan Muslim League [PML]-Nawaz group for recent bomb blasts in Lahore and said these started since the party entered into alliance with the Altaf Group. Addressing a news conference at the Punjab House in Islamabad today, he said the culprits involved in the blast have already been identified and would be arrested soon. Some of the culprits, he said, have already been taken into custody.

Ruling out the merger of PML-Nawaz group and PML-Junejo group, the chief minister said it is not possible, and there is no effort going on. Mr. Nakai also dispelled the impression that the Punjab government had any dispute with the federal government. He said: In fact, we are engaged in massive development work and improving the socioeconomic conditions under the dynamic leadership of Ms. Benazir Bhutto.

Two Altaf Group 'Activists' Killed by Police in Karachi

BK2801153596 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, two Altaf Group activists allegedly involved in terrorist activities were killed in an encounter with police near Liaqatabad Graveyard in Karachi this morning. They were identified as Sadiq, alias Launcher, and Nazim Mian. The police said that rockets, one hand grenade, one Kalashnikov, one rifle, and a car were recovered from their possession.

Meanwhile, the Sindh Government has announced the setting up of an inquiry tribunal headed by Justice Ghulam Haider Lakhu, a Sindh High Court judge, to investigate the cause of death of Nasir Hussain and Arif Hussain [half-brother and nephew of Muhajir Qaumi Movement leader Altaf Hussain].

Altaf Group 'Terrorist' Killed by Police in Karachi

BK3001084496 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An Altaf Group terrorist was killed in an encounter with police at Orangi town, Karachi today. One terrorist was arrested and two others managed to escape. One rocket launcher, four rockets, one Kalashnikov, and a magazine containing 22 rounds were also recovered from their possession.

Police also caught a terrorist named Chacha Shahzad and recovered some ammunition. He was wanted by the police in connection with 22 heinous crimes.

Pakistani Law Minister Urges Altaf Group To Cooperate on Kashmir

BK3101015196 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Professor N.D. Khan, federal minister for law and justice, has expressed the hope that the entire nation will demonstrate total solidarity with the people of Kashmir on 5 February. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, he said on this day the message should reach across the borders that the

Pakistani nation is united on this issue. He appealed to the Altaf Group to cooperate with other political parties on the occasion of a day of solidarity with the people of Kashmir, and to condemn in categorical terms the brutal atrocities of the Indian troops in occupied Kashmir and India's missile programs.

On the law and order situation in Karachi, Prof. N.D. Khan said the situation in Karachi is much better and the results of the government's administrative and economic policies have started emerging. In this connection, he referred to the signing of an agreement with a Canadian firm for setting up a mass Transit system in Karachi. He also referred to the construction of flyovers and the provision of other basic amenities to the citizens. He asked the Altaf Group to come forward and resume negotiations with the government, because it is the Altaf Group that has unilaterally suspended the process of negotiations.

Sri Lanka

Two Tamil Tigers Arrested for Sri Lanka Bomb Blast Involvement

BK3101123696 Hong Kong AFP in English 1221 GMT 31 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Jan 31 (AFP) — Sri Lankan police arrested two suspected Tamil Tiger guerrillas believed to be involved in Wednesday's devastating bomb attack in the middle of Colombo, officials sources said.

The two were arrested with automatic rifles shortly after explosives packed in a truck blew up at the Central Bank of Sri Lanka building, killing at least 50 people and wounding more than 100 people, the sources said.

Sri Lankan Citizens Credited With Arrest of Bomb Blast Suspects

BK0102020296 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 1 Feb 96

[Report by Paneetha Ameresekere — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Public spirited citizens yesterday arrested two Tiger suspects believed to be involved in the Central Bank blast, while they were trying to make their get away from a bakery at Pettah.

They were apprehended, while trying to make their get away, after disposing of four grenades, a suicide kit equipped with a push button, two home made bombs, two magazines and two walkie talkies, which were on their persons, at a bakery down Second Rohini Lane, Pettah.

K.P.S. De Silva whose suspicions ultimately led to the arrest of these two suspects along with their lethal cargo told the Pettah police, that no sooner he alighted from a bus, opposite the Pettah bazaar, he heard a loud explosion, and saw a pall of smoke, rising from the vicinity of the Central Bank.

While he was looking in that direction, he saw two suspicious persons, dressed like labourers and clad in sarongs, walking fast in his direction.

"One of the suspects was wearing a tee shirt and the other a banian. The outline of an object strapped into the body of the person wearing the tee shirt was visible," he said.

He called another person (L.S.P. Pieris), who was also in the vicinity, and said that in the light of the recent blast, these two persons looked suspicious, and requested his assistance to shadow these two suspects.

De Silva in his statement to the police, said that he does not know Peiris, but as vigilance was really essential, especially at that time of the hour, he asked Pieris to help him in following these two persons.

The suspects then turned into Malwatte road, and stopped a three wheeler taxi, tendering a Rs.[rupees] 500 note, for a hire.

But the taxi refused the hire, and then these two persons turned into 2nd Rohini lane, De Silva said. He and Pieris maintained a gap of about ten feet when following these two suspects.

The two Tiger suspects had then entered a bakery in the lane. Pieris and De Silva had then sought the assistance of a driver of a vehicle who was nearby for help.

The driver turned out to be the owner of the bakery.

No sooner the bakery owner too joined in the stalk, he came out shouting Tigers, Tigers.

The two Tiger suspects then rushed out, and one was apprehended down Prince Street and the other down Rohini Lane itself, with the assistance of the members of the Malwatte Road Civil Defence Committee and the people in the area.

The suspects had disposed of four grenades, two bombs made out from s-lon pipes, two magazines, a suicide kit containing explosives, and two walkie talkies, which were in their persons, at the bakery, before trying to make their abortive escape, investigations revealed.

The statements of Pieris and D. M. Asoka Ananda, a trader in the area were also recorded by the police.

Over 1,400 Said Injured in Bomb Blast in Colombo

*BK3101143796 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in Tamil
1230 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] More than 1,400 people have been injured in the massive bomb blast near the Central Bank building at Colombo Fort today. Nine hundred and seventy people have been admitted to Colombo General Hospital for treatment. Dr. Jayante de Silva, Colombo General Hospital superintendent, has informed the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation that after treatment, 330 injured persons have been discharged from the hospital. Hospital sources say that the condition of 100 people among the injured is serious. Our correspondent reports that all the hospital employees, including doctors, are extending full cooperation in taking care of the injured. All the operation theaters in the (emergency ward) are being used for treatment. The list of people undergoing treatment at the hospital has been kept at the entrance of the hospital. It is difficult to personally inform close relatives about those who have been injured. The superintendent has stated that one can get information at the reception hall of the General Hospital. Fifty bodies have been brought to the hospital. At the same time, 40 persons have been admitted to the Colombo Eye hospital. Seventeen people have been given surgical treatment. Sixty people have been treated at the out-patient ward of the eye hospital. Several people have arrived in the hospital in response to the call for blood donations. The superintendent of blood donation unit has informed that if necessary, the public will be asked to donate blood.

While shooting at security officers, armed persons tried to enter the Central Bank building. Eye witnesses say that the security officers returned the fire. It has been reported that thereafter, the armed persons exploded two bombs first and activated a very powerful bomb later from a vehicle parked outside. The Central Bank, the Ceylinco, and several other buildings in the vicinity have been affected in the bomb blasts. Four hundred vehicles parked outside the buildings have been damaged. Fire-fighting units say that they are still engaged in fire fighting operations. [Word indistinct] organization, the Navy, Petroleum Corporation, and other organizations are extending their assistance to the fire-fighters. Police and security forces are also extending their cooperation. Helicopters were used to evacuate people from the top floors of the gutted buildings.

Reuter agency's building in Colombo has also been affected. Giving information, a spokesman of this news agency said that the damage to the building was assessed at 200 million rupees. A spokesman of the Ports

Authority has reported that about six ships docked at Colombo Port have been affected. Employees of most of the offices have been asked to go home after the bomb blasts.

Giving information, the chief administrative officer of Central Bank said 800 workers reported for duty today. He said of them, 700 persons have been evacuated to outside the building and the injured have been sent to hospitals. The chief security officer of the [word indistinct] building told our correspondent that up to 2,000 people were inside the building at the time of the incident.

The government has taken immediate steps to provide relief to the injured people in the bomb blasts. Two-thousand rupees each will be given toward the funeral of the deceased. [passage omitted]

The Air Lanka mercantile ticketing office located at (Janadhipathi Mawate) has also been damaged as a result of the major bomb blast that took place in Central Bank today. All the employees working there have immediately been evacuated to safer places. Flights will operate as per schedule at the Bandaranaike International Airport. Other ticketing offices are functioning as usual. The telephone number to contact Air Lanka is 0735555.

Delhi Radio Reports 200 Killed in Sri Lanka Blast

*BK3101160296 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1530 GMT 31 Jan 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Sri Lanka, nearly 200 people have been killed and over 1,000 injured in two powerful explosions in the capital Colombo. Reports say a truck loaded with explosives was driven into the Central Bank Building and exploded at 1015 [0445 GMT] this morning. It was followed by a second blast which caused fire in about eight buildings across the street. The exact number of people killed or injured is not known. Our correspondent T. Kannan reports from Colombo:

[Begin Kannan recording] Colombo was paralyzed today following one of the worst bomb blasts this morning killing nearly 200 persons and wounding hundreds of others. A truck loaded with a huge quantity of explosives set off the blast, which also caused raging fires in the Central Bank of Ceylon and nine other buildings trapping hundreds of employees and visitors. When this correspondent visited the scene, high-rise ladders and helicopters rescued many wounded and shell-shocked employees. The Central Bank, which controls the Sri Lankan economy may have to be written off, after extensive structural damage. Some officers of the Indian Overseas Bank who were injured are out of danger. The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is

believed to have triggered the blast conveying a message to the Sri Lankan Government and the people that the war is not over with the fall of Jaffna but that the battle will be carried into the heart of Colombo itself once again. [end recording]

Report Assesses Damage of Bomb Blast in Colombo

*BK0102013696 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English
1 Feb 96*

[Report by A. S. Fernando, Elmo Leonard and Hemasiri Kuruppu — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A powerful bomb that exploded at the Central Bank building about 10.50 am yesterday saw the Bank building, Ceylinco House opposite it and a row of adjoining smaller buildings engulfed in thick smoke and flames within minutes.

The bomb attack, widely believed to be the work of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was described by security sources as the most powerful ones set off in rebel attacks in the city so far.

"About 200 kilos of explosives would have been used to rig the vehicle bomb," a military explosives expert said.

According to eye witness accounts, an LTTE suicide squad had driven an explosives-packed truck into the Central Bank building firing at the security guards as they moved in. The devastating explosion had occurred seconds later causing an inferno. They are believed to have used a RPG [Rocket Propelled Grenade] to destroy the front barrier before moving in.

The latest reports put the death toll at 60 and the injured at 1,150. Nearly 100 persons are reported to be in a serious condition. The magisterial inquiry revealed a death toll of 51.

The vibration triggered by the explosion damaged many buildings in the city's commercial centre. Hundreds of their occupants were injured by the flying glass splinters and falling debris. Among the buildings damaged were Mercantile Building, Ceylon Hotels Corporation, ABN AMRO, Cargo Boat, George Steuarts, Air Lanka and Ceylinco.

Glass windows of the Hotel Ceylon Inter-Continental and Galadari Hotel were damaged. The World Trade Centre and the Bank of Ceylon Headquarters suffered slight damage. The office of REUTERS, the international news agency, was also damaged but the journalists were reported to be safe.

A laminated card found at the scene of the blast had carried the message that the vehicle was carrying 4,000

kilos of explosives and any attempt to stop it would lead to the detonation of the explosives. The message was in Sinhala, Tamil and English. Defence officials believe that the suicide bombers carried the card to threaten anyone who may have stopped the vehicle for checking.

The impact of the blast was heard as far as Ratmalana, about 15 kilometres from the blast site. Several residences were shaken and the city's power supply and telecommunications were disrupted for some time.

The staff of the General Hospital and several other hospitals were working feverishly. Doctors attended to more serious injuries, nurses and attendants were engaged in treating the others.

Most people had eye injuries. Apparently, they had looked up for falling objects. Some girls had their breasts cut. Some had stomach injuries. Others had head or feet injuries. Some of the gashes were too horrible to look at.

Several foreigners were among those who sought treatment at Colombo hospitals.

In the Colombo General Hospital, blood was splattered all over the floors and the lifts. Blood soaked rags and clothes were seen everywhere.

Patients could not be identified by name, but only by number.

There were two or three patients on a single bed. Some sat on the floors.

By 12 noon, the raging fire at the Central Bank building had reached the topmost storey and tongues of flames were seen issuing forth from the windows. Meanwhile, the other high rise, the Ceylinco House was enveloped in thick smoke and several trapped employees were seen on the topmost 'Akasa Kade' frantically calling for rescue.

The city fire brigade reached the scene within 10 minutes of the explosions. But fire fighting and rescue operations were stalled for several precious minutes by some initial problems, eye witnesses said.

"We had difficulty in finding hydrants. Besides water pressure was very low," Fire Chief Jayantha Kannangara told one of our reporters.

Fire fighters backed by hundreds of security personnel made a valiant effort to douse the flames of all buildings by evening. Several helicopters defied billowing black fumes and searing heat to drop aquafoam on the inferno.

Official sources said Central Bank Governor A.S.Jayawardane, who was inside the building at the time of the explosion, escaped unhurt and assisted in the rescue effort. Among those rescued from the

Ceylinco building was its Chairman Lalith Kotelawala. He was later operated on at the General Hospital and was reported to be out of danger. Two women were rescued late in the evening from the ABN AMRO building and the Mercantile Building.

Rescue officials said their efforts will continue throughout the night and today as well.

The city and the environs were quickly deserted of its one million inhabitants as news of the explosion and fires spread. Shops were closed.

Public transport was totally inadequate to meet the crisis and most workers were compelled to walk at least part of their way home.

Meanwhile, the Defence Ministry made an appeal to the public to remain calm and keep from entering the cordoned off area.

Sri Lankan Defense Ministry Issues Statement on Colombo Bomb Blast

*BR0102020596 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English
1 Feb 96*

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Defence Ministry in a statement about yesterday's bomb explosion in the Fort said it was very clear from that incident that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] Tigers who had suffered at the hands of the security forces both in the north and the east had reacted in that manner expecting a communal back lash.

"The government is very confident that the people will not play into the hands of these unscrupulous scheming terrorists who seem to be hell-bent on somehow achieving their objective of a separate state over the blood of innocent peace loving people", it said.

The statement said:

"Around 10.50 a.m. today an explosives laden heavy vehicle had rammed into the entrance barrier of the Central Bank. This had resulted in a massive explosion. Extensive damage had been caused to the Central Bank building, Ceylinco and other buildings in the vicinity. This explosion had also caused death and injury to employees of the Central Bank other offices in the neighbourhood as well as members of the public.

Hospital sources revealed that there are 52 deaths and around 1000 injured. The injured are receiving treatment at the General Hospital and other hospitals in the city. More than 500 had left the General Hospital after receiving outdoor treatment.

Inquiries are being conducted on this incident. Several arrests have been made. Two of the suspects who have been arrested with the cooperation of the public have admitted that they are members of the LTTE. Their involvement in the incident had been admitted during the interrogation. At the time of their arrest the following items were found in their possession: suicide bomber's kits, T-56 weapons with several rounds of ammunition, hand grenades, communication sets.

In addition to these, a disposable rocket launcher was found at the site of the incident. Further investigations are being conducted by the Police.

The Government extends its deepest condolences to the families bereaved by this barbarous act of the LTTE. The Government also expresses its profound concern to those who have had to suffer injury as a consequence of this act of terrorism. Security Forces, Police and the Fire Brigade had done everything possible to bring the situation under control. In fact the fire was extinguished within about four hours. There was spontaneous support from the general public to the security services and the Police engaged in rescue operations. We wish to express our sincere thanks to them.

Large number of injured persons had been treated at the General Hospital and at other medical institutions. We thank the doctors, nurses and other staff of the General Hospital and other medical and voluntary organisations for their prompt and dedicated attention to those injured."

LTTE Europe Spokesman Denies Tigers Behind Bomb Attack

BR0102113396 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA
in Italian 1 Feb 96 p 7

[Interview with Anthony Radjet, European spokesman for Sri Lankan Tamil Tigers, by Matteo Persivale in London on 31 January: "We Are Not the Real Murderers" — first four paragraphs are CORRIERE DELLA SERA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "We are not the murderers: It is the government that chose the path of violence, years ago. We are in favor of negotiation, a peaceful solution to this tragedy."

Anthony Radjet would not listen to reason: Speaking from London, the spokesman in Europe for the "Tamil Tigers" denied that his movement bore any responsibility for the massacre. And he counterattacked.

The latest bloodthirsty episode in the struggle by the minority Tamils (Indian by origin and Hindus by religion) against the (Buddhist) Singalese majority that

governs the country does not much shock the Tigers' spokesman. [passage omitted]

"It is sad; but I repeat, we are not murderers," Radjet said. "The government is killing innocent people, just as you and I are talking. It is happening at this very moment, in the northeast of the country. The government sparked a war on the large scale, a tragedy that nobody talks about. Nobody cries for the Tamil dead."

[Persivale] A few hours after the massacre the military immediately accused you Tamil separatists.

[Radjet] It is always the same story; whenever something happens, they accuse us. But I repeat, it is not we of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] who are the murderers.

[Persivale] It is a ghastly massacre. Why kill all those innocent people?

[Radjet] We are sad about this incident, very sad, but it yet another demonstration that the Sri Lankan problem needs a political solution. So that violence is eliminated once and for all.

[Persivale] Nobody has claimed responsibility for the attack. Why not?

[Radjet] I do not know: I can tell you that we certainly will not claim responsibility for it.

[Persivale] What will happen now?

[Radjet] Credible negotiations must be started, and the government must consider our demands. There is a war in progress, and it has been dragging on for many years. It is a civil war, not a series of acts of terrorism.

[Persivale] What repercussions will this attack have on the negotiations for the independence of the northeast of the island?

[Radjet] No federalist plan has yet met with our approval. As far as we are concerned, the negotiations are at a standstill. And so the violence continues, but certainly not at the Tamils' wishes.

[Persivale] Have you spoken with anyone in Colombo since the massacre?

[Radjet] There is nobody with whom I should speak. Our positions are well known. We do not need to apologize for anything.

[Persivale] Some people fear more violence in the coming weeks. Do you think that there is a real danger of further attacks?

[Radjet] I would not know. [passage omitted]

Sri Lankan Deputy Defense Minister, Bank Governor Comment on Blast*BK0102115796 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English
1045 GMT 1 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Defense Ministry in a communique says that suspects in yesterday's bomb attack at the Central Bank have been taken into custody. Two T-56 rifles, six hand bombs, two suicide bombing kits, and two communication sets were seized. This clearly shows that yesterday's bomb attack was by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam].

A police mortuary release says that nearly 30 bodies in yesterday's incident have been identified. Nearly 1,500 persons were injured, and they are now receiving treatment at the General Hospital, Colombo south, and Sri Jayewardenepura Hospital and also the Eye Hospital. Eye Hospital sources said that the chairman of the Ceylinco group, Lalith Kotalawela, who was seriously injured in the incident, underwent surgery yesterday.

The Colombo fire brigade said that the fire was completely extinguished by 1830 last evening. The fire brigade extends its sincere thanks to the Port Authority, Dockyard Limited, the Air Force, and the Board of Investment.

Four hundred and seventy of the persons injured in yesterday's Fort bomb attack are being treated in 30 wards of Colombo General Hospital. Eight of them are in intensive care. A further 150 victims will be admitted to the Eye Hospital. The hospital director, Dr. Upali Mendis, says that 30 patients were operated on last night.

Hospital authorities have urged members of the public to refrain from unnecessarily crowding the hospitals. Lists of the victims are on display at the entrance. Doctors say that the large numbers of people entering the hospitals to seek information are hampering their work.

The deputy minister of defense, Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte, says that the government will not be deterred by unfortunate incidents like yesterday's massive bomb attack and will go ahead with its activities to eliminate terrorism. The terrorists have suffered several setbacks due to the government's efforts to eliminate terrorism. They are now attempting to create a backlash by inciting communal violence. The deputy defense minister said that everywhere in the world terrorists attempt to do likewise, and he called on the public to be vigilant and to act with restraint during a time of crisis. Yesterday's incident will not be an obstacle to the government's peace process. The government has a three-point plan for the establishment of peace. It will defeat the

terrorists opposed to the peace process militarily and will make every effort to find a political solution to the problem, while ensuring the economic advancement of all sections of the community.

Col. Anuruddha Ratwatte further said that the LTTE's inhuman actions, like yesterday's bomb attack, has confirmed their defeat in the face of the government's plan. He was confident that the public will cooperate with the security forces in eliminating terrorism, as was amply demonstrated yesterday when public-spirited persons helped to apprehend suspects in yesterday's incident within a few hours near the Fort railway station. The deputy minister said that the investigation has been facilitated by the important information revealed by the LTTE suspects taken into custody yesterday.

The governor of the Central Bank, A.S. Jayewardene, told the SLBC that, even though the bank sustained severe damage, work will go on as usual. He said that nobody will be able to disrupt the activities of the Central Bank through such dastardly acts. He reiterated that, even amid severe obstacles, they would continue to function. A special program will be launched jointly with a commercial bank for transaction. Mr. Jayewardene further stated that foreign exchange transactions will be carried on as usual, and the country's economic activities carried out by the Central Bank will be continued as usual, providing the normal services. He stressed that the employees provident fund [EPF] contributions from 4 million of the country's working population have not suffered any harm whatsoever. The governor said that these monies have been deposited in financial institutions, and no one need entertain any fears regarding their EPF contribution. Yesterday's incident did not in any way affect the Central Bank funds or financial reserves. All the financial reserves are deposited in special security vaults under the Central Bank building, and they had not been affected in any way.

Government Vows to Escalate Military Campaign Against LTTE*BK0102114996 Hong Kong AFP in English
1132 GMT 1 Feb 96*

[Report by Chris Lefkow]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Feb 1 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan government vowed Thursday to escalate a military campaign against Tamil rebels following a suicide bombing that killed more than 70 people and wrecked the capital's financial district.

As teams of rescuers sifted through the rubble of the Central Bank building here where a truck packed with explosives blew up on Wednesday, President Chandrika

Kumaratunga appealed for calm in a nationally broadcast speech.

She said that while her government was determined to stamp out terrorism, she remained hopeful a political settlement could be found to the ethnic conflict which has left 50,000 people dead on the island since 1972.

Colombo's financial markets were severely disrupted on Thursday following the blast and there were also doubts as to whether Sri Lanka would be retained as one of the hosts of the cricket World Cup later this month.

A senior police officer said the authorities were questioning two suspected members of the main Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), arrested Wednesday in connection with the bombing.

Deputy Inspector General of Police Mitra Ariyasinghe said the pair were believed to be members of an LTTE suicide squad which opened fire outside the Central Bank with automatic weapons shortly before the truck-bomb explosion.

He told reporters that 72 people had been confirmed dead in the bombing and that 1,272 remained hospitalized on Thursday.

Justice Minister G.L. Peiris said the Sri Lankan military would intensify its operations against the LTTE following the attack believed to have been carried out by the LTTE to avenge last month's loss of its stronghold, Jaffna.

"The government's view is that this calamity underlines the paramount need to defeat the LTTE militarily," Peiris said. "That is crystal clear.

"We will be intensifying the military campaign both in the north and east" of the island, where Sri Lanka's Tamil minority community is concentrated, he said.

Peiris added, however, that military might alone could not bring about an end to the ethnic conflict, a view reiterated by President Kumaratunga in her address on radio and television.

"My government has taken the initiative in wiping out the terrorist menace," the president said in a reference to the capture of the northern city of Jaffna after nearly 50 days of fighting which left some 2,000 LTTE guerrillas dead.

"While stamping out terrorism we must also address the causes of terrorism and that is the lesson of this bomb blast," she said.

Kumaratunga said she remained committed to an autonomy plan, unveiled in August, that would provide Tamils with a greater degree of self-rule.

The LTTE has rejected the autonomy plan as falling far short of its demand for self-determination for the two-million-member Tamil community.

Justice Minister Peiris said the LTTE apparently viewed the autonomy plan as a threat and the bomb blast showed the group will "resort to any means to make it as difficult as possible to achieve a political settlement."

Peiris, who is also deputy finance minister, admitted that the bomb was a setback to government plans to lure foreign investment.

"In the short term there could be an adverse effect," he said. "We hope we can restore confidence."

Hopes were fading at the Central Bank building on Thursday that any survivors of the explosion would be found in the debris.

"I don't think we'll find anyone left alive now," a senior police officer told AFP. He said an undetermined number of bodies were trapped under a huge concrete slab blocking the entrance to the building.

He said nine bodies had been recovered from the Central Bank on Thursday and one in the offices of national airline Air Lanka across the street.

Central Bank governor A.S. Jayawardena said at least 40 of the fatalities were employees of the bank, which bore the brunt of the blast believed to have been caused by 200 kilograms (440 pounds) of plastic explosive.

Security was tightened in Colombo on Thursday as the security forces threw up roadblocks and stopped vehicles to check identity papers.

LTTE Attack on Police Posts in Batticaloa Detailed *BK3001133496 (Internet) Tamil Eelam News WWW in Tamil 25 Jan 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Sri Lankan police outposts at Eravur in Batticaloa district were attacked and destroyed by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) at 0100 early this morning. A special LTTE task force launched simultaneous attacks on three outposts of Eravur police station at about 2350 early in the morning. In the assault, which lasted only five minutes, five policemen were killed. Others managed to escape. The LTTE, who brought the outposts under their control within five minutes, destroyed them after removing any weapons there. After accomplishing this successful ambush without suffering any loss, the LTTE cadres returned to their base with the seized arms.

Incessant missile attacks are being carried out on civilian localities from Chenkalady, Kommanthurai, and Murakkoddanchenai military camps in Batticaloa

District. Due to the continuous attacks of Sri Lankan Government troops, people from these areas have been leaving in large numbers. As vehicular transport has been suspended, people are going to safer places on bullock carts and bicycles.

Reports say that there was heavy damage due to a missile attack from Palali military camp toward Tondamanar around 0600 yesterday morning. Several missiles landed and exploded in the periphery of Veerakathipillaiyar temple. There are no reports of any damage.

It has also been stated that there was heavy damage due to the missile attack on Velvettiturai the day before yesterday. Areas surrounding the Velvettiturai hospital have been badly damaged. Although several social organizations have taken steps to declare the above hospital area as a security zone, the Sri Lankan Government has remained silent.

Sri Lankan troops deployed in Kalmunai and Poovarasantivu areas attacked fishermen who were fishing in the area. These attacks were carried out in the Maravanpulavu and Tanankilappu coastal areas.

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan naval forces have resorted to indiscriminate artillery firing on the coastal villages in Mullaitivu District. A fisherman is missing after a brutal assault that was carried out the day before yesterday. Following the attacks on fishermen, who were engaged in fishing activities, the fishermen jumped into the sea and swam ashore after abandoning their expensive fishing gear and boats.

A representative of the French Medical Organization, MSF [expansion not known], has stated that the Batticaloa hospital, which is under the control of Sri Lankan Army, lacks adequate medicines and a sufficient number of doctors to examine patients. Saying that only one surgeon is working there, the representative added that the hospital does not even have soap and gowns for patients.

The Government of Sri Lanka has restricted the activities of international service organizations that have been extending humanitarian assistance to the Tamils displaced from Weligama and currently staying in other localities due to the acts of terrorism committed by the government. The Sri Lankan Government has banned direct action by certain organizations. The government has also banned the activities of international service organizations that have taken up the task of establishing settlements and rehabilitating displaced people. At the same time, the government has created problems, in many ways, for these organizations in extending help to the affected people.

The thirst of the Tigers is for the motherland of Tamil Eelam. Thank you.

LTTE Report Discusses Clashes, Peace Package

BK3101124996 (Internet) Tamil Eelam News WWW in Tamil 27 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] There was heavy fighting between the Sri Lankan Army and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] in Inuvil early yesterday morning. It has been reported that the Army suffered heavy casualties in the direct confrontation that took place in northern Inuvil-Kondavil. Six freedom fighters from the LTTE side embraced martyrdom.

Freedom fighter Lieutenant Tamilvanan, alias Ramachandran Sivakumaran, attained martyrdom in an accidental bomb blast that took place in Jaffna District on 22 January.

Our tributes go to these national heroes who sacrificed their lives for the cause of liberating our motherland.

A military vehicle carrying soldiers was totally destroyed in a land mine attack carried out by the LTTE in Jaffna District today. All the soldiers traveling in the vehicle are reported to have been killed. Soldiers on patrol were the target of this land mine attack.

A fisherman, who has been missing for the past few days following an attack by the Sri Lankan Navy in Matalan [place name as transliterated] in Mullaitivu District, has returned. The fisherman, who returned after facing heavy odds [words indistinct] is undergoing hospital treatment.

The Sri Lankan Government has been imposing inhuman restrictions on the humanitarian assistance to the displaced being rendered by Nongovernmental Organizations [NGO's]. Several relief organizations have said that this has stifled their operations. These NGO's say that the Sri Lankan Government is hindering relief operations by politicizing the dispatch of essential goods to the affected people, which, in turn, hampers the provision of humanitarian assistance.

The Chandrika Kumaratunga government has decided to place importance on the protracted military operation. The government's objective is to ignore the political peace package, which has assumed a legal status, and continue to press the military action against the Tamil people. Accepting the basic principles of the peace package put forward by the Chandrika Kumaratunga government, Tamil groups, for their part, are appealing to the government to make minor changes. The Tamil United Liberation Front is understood to have taken the lead in this regard. Welcoming any kind of peace

proposal put forward by the government, these Tamil groups are giving a green light to the military action also. Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan Government has also been taking steps to popularize these peace proposals in foreign countries. The government has sought the full cooperation of these groups in the task of popularizing these proposals abroad.

The thirst of the Tigers is for the motherland of Tamil Eelam. Thanks.

Military Officials Claim 25 LTTE 'Terrorists' Killed

BK0102025196 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English
31 Jan 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] "At least 25 terrorists were killed and many more wounded when troops repulsed attacks in Welio-oya and Nilaweli on Monday," a senior military official said yesterday.

"Terrorist casualties could be much higher as the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has now made a practice of accounting for only their 'voluntary fighters' in their radio communications. Others who have been forcibly recruited and subsequently killed in action

are summarily buried or cremated as nonentities," the official explained.

The LTTE last week refused to accept the bodies of some of their cadres sent through the ICRC for this reason, he added.

Troops have mounted a massive counter-offensive to wipe out the terrorist bases in the East following the stepped up sporadic attacks by the enemy. The LTTE has also gunned down a large number of civilians in the East during the past few weeks. "The victims were mostly those on their hit list as defectors and army informants," a security official said.

Security forces lost 19 personnel including two officers in three separate incidents in Welio-oya and Nilaweli.

Police commandos on a route clearing patrol along Panama-Arugam Bay on Monday effectively repulsed an LTTE attack killing several of them, a Defence Ministry release said.

The commandos recovered three bodies along with two automatic weapons. An SI [subinspector of police] and two PCs were killed in action. Two PCs who were wounded were despatched to Polonnaruwa hospital.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 362
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

- Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.
- Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.
- Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.